

## 'Palestine can have observer status'

GENEVA (R) — The newly proclaimed state of Palestine can obtain observer status in the United Nations without having to seek Security Council approval, U.N. spokesman Francois Gualiani said Tuesday. Gualiani told reporters the Security Council would play a role only if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or its supporters in the United Nations tried to make Palestine a full member state of the international organisation. The United States, which disapproves of the state of Palestine proclaimed in Algiers last month, would be certain to use its Security Council veto to block such a move. PLO officials have said the organisation will seek some status for the State of Palestine during this week's General Assembly debate on Palestine. Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa said Tuesday the Arab states would ask the U.N. to make it an observer state. The PLO itself has had permanent observer status as an organisation since 1974. The new state, proclaimed by Nov. 15, has already won recognition from more than 45 countries. Gualiani said Palestine could win observer status by a simple majority vote in the General Assembly.

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## Regent lauds Ramtha, urges participation in its development

RAMTHA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday paid tribute to Ramtha, which, he said, "being a border town, has contributed most effectively over the past three decades towards the Kingdom's development and progress."

Jordanian universities and other sectors should help carry out planning for the development of the border town, and so contribute to the continuous process of development and progress, the Regent said at a public rally attended by representatives of public and private organisations in the Ramtha region.

Prince Hassan said cooperation for the development of Ramtha should take into consideration promotion of services and a plan to stem desertification. "We ought to define the meaning of the term 'public interest' and try to solve all our problems within a comprehensive concept that takes into consideration the interests of all sectors," the Regent said. "It is high time for us to embark on active work and practical contribution in the development process, specially in education which means giving sufficient care for the future generation

who can carry on the development of their country."

The private and public sectors are also required to join forces in this respect and interpret His Majesty King Hussein's slogan of "the citizen is the most precious asset" into fact, the Regent said.

Prince Hassan voiced appreciation of teachers and educators in the Ramtha region and satisfaction with their efforts in promoting the educational process.

He said emphasis should be laid on training of children in fields most needed by their community.

Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, who attended the meeting, made an address emphasising the need to provide education and training that is most useful for the community's development.

Prince Hassan started his tour of the Ramtha region with a visit to the local government hospital where he inspected its services and met with doctors and nurses and toured its sections.

Later he called at the vocational school for girls to inspect work-shops and examine training programmes and visited Al Zaharaa School where he briefed on educational programmes.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received Tuesday by French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife at the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris (Petra photo)

## Arab side ready for negotiated Mideast peace, Jordan tells U.N.

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday renewed its commitment to a negotiated peace settlement of the Middle East conflict and pledged to continue its efforts towards finding a just and comprehensive solution of the conflict encompassing the security and stability of the region.

Delivering the Kingdom's address to the special U.N. General Assembly Session on Palestine, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said the only means for peace in the Middle East was an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Masri pointed out that there "is at present an Arab position characterised by a high degree of moderation and responsibility and anchored in 'Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338'."

"Irrespective of the fact whether the recent PNC (Palestine National Council) resolutions literally meet the terms and conditions set by these powers, nonetheless it is essential to acknowledge that formal Palestinian movement towards peace has now taken a distinct documented form," Masri said. "Any attempts to cast aspersions upon that are uncalled for and would prove pointless. The question that must now be raised is whether Israel is really ready to respond to this forthcoming Arab and Palestinian positions. Another question that arises is whether the U.S. which has been insisting on a specific recognition of Israel by the Palestinians, will be ready to request a similar recognition by Israel of the Palestinian side and its legitimate rights."

Following are major excerpts from Masri's address: "The action taken by the United States secretary of state to deny the chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO access to the United Nations headquarters is an insult to the United Nations itself as well as to all its members. Irrespective of whatever the justifications given, that decision remains unacceptable for it means acquiescence to conferring on one member state certain powers to impose certain restrictions on the United Nations activities in a manner contrary to the Charter and to the autonomy of the organisation."

"The Palestinian people, through its heroic uprising, has put its cause in its proper international perspective. The uprising has underlined the fact that Israel will not be able to maintain by force the status quo ad infinitum. Also, the Palestinian people has been capable of projecting, in clear black and white terms, its national identity as a colonised people aspiring to attain national independence through a genuine and sincere orientation towards peace and a desire to co-exist with the other side on the basis of its ability to exercise its national inalienable rights, foremost among which is

its right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state on its national territory. "Jordan has consistently, especially since 1967, advocated for a peaceful, just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions adopted by the world body."

"Jordan considered Security Council Resolution 242, right from the moment of its adoption, the chief basis for peace initiatives and international efforts aimed at coping with the results of the 1967 war. Accordingly, Jordan persisted in its efforts, both at inter-Arab and international levels, to mobilise support for compliance with, as well as implementation of, that resolution."

"The Arab movement towards peace has not been matched by a similar position. Quite the contrary, Israel's series of acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and throughout the region reveal a totally different attitude that puts the entire area at the risk of constant confrontation and tension that are not in harmony with the current atmosphere of relaxation in international relations, especially between the two superpowers."

"With regard to the double-standard selective approach by some powers in dealing with the parties to the conflict, it is indeed deplorable to note that the United States has not

sponded to this forthcoming Arab and Palestinian positions. Another question that arises is whether the U.S. which has been insisting on a specific recognition of Israel by the Palestinians, will be ready to request a similar recognition by Israel of the Palestinian side and its legitimate rights."

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## Thousands evacuated from Armenia; rescue continues

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Thousands of survivors are being evacuated from quake-stricken areas of Armenia and authorities have imposed a curfew in the city of Leninakan after looters raided damaged shops and homes, Soviet media said Tuesday.

Government officials said the death toll from last Wednesday's quake was now provisionally 55,000, up from the 40,000 to 45,000 it gave last week.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference that 13,000 were injured. Rescue workers pulled 18,500 people from rubble but only 5,400 had been alive. The quake made half a million people homeless.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev urged rescue teams to keep searching for survivors, recalling that some people were found alive under the debris of the 1985 Mexico City earthquake 13 days after it occurred.

"Every hour is precious," he said in a weekend meeting with Armenian leaders, described in Tuesday's edition of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Up to four thousand people were being evacuated daily from cities and villages in northwest Armenia hit by the quake, TASS news agency said.

TASS said a "psychological barrier" had been broken with people who at first refused to abandon the ruins of their homes and relatives and friends buried under rubble.

"This measure has now been accepted by the majority as the only reasonable one," TASS said. "Every day between 3,500 and 4,000 people leave the epicentre of the tragedy."

Twenty-four thousand people have been evacuated from earth-

quake areas so far, Gerasimov told the news conference.

He said officials believed 70 per cent of the residents of Spitak had died. Its population was 20,000 before the quake.

"Of course the rescue effort had shortcomings. There was indeed a lack of organisation: no cranes, no equipment," Gerasimov said.

"Some cranes were intercepted and sent to other locations where relatives of officials may have been buried. This is understandable from a human point of view. We were simply not prepared for such a disaster," Gerasimov said.

Gerasimov denied there had been celebrations in the streets of Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, after the earthquake took place. "No such meeting took place."

Ethnic violence between Armenians and Azerbaijanis has caused more than 60 deaths this year. The clashes were sparked by a dispute over control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, populated mainly by Armenians.

Azerbaijan has sent aid to Armenia but some of it has been refused. Thousands of refugees from both republics have fled the ethnic strife in recent weeks.



Rescue workers lift a five-year-old girl from ruins in Leninakan where she had been trapped since Dec. 7. The girl was alive when rescued but died en route to hospital

## Assad visits S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad arrived unexpectedly Tuesday for talks with King Fahd. Fahd, along with Crown Prince Abdullah, were at the airport to receive the Syrian president on one of his rare trips from Damascus. He was accompanied by Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Sharara. The official Saudi Press Agency reported the arrival but did not specify the reason for the visit. Assad arrived at the Saudi monarch prepares to take part with his counterparts in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for their annual summit next week in Bahrain. The GCC also groups Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. The leaders will discuss ways of pushing the stalled peace talks between Iraq and Iran and the situation in Lebanon. While passing through Jordanian airspace on his way to Riyadh Tuesday, Assad sent a cable of good wishes to His Majesty King Hussein. He wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

## Al Hussein, Mitterrand discuss Mideast, Arab, international issues, bilateral ties

## King voices optimism over peace prospects

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and told reporters afterwards he was personally optimistic over prospects for peace in the Middle East.

The King described his talks with Mitterrand as very successful.

He praised the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) "positive and responsible attitude," which has improved prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King, in Paris on a three-day visit which began Monday, told reporters he had three reasons to be optimistic.

"I am personally optimistic for the present and future because of the international community's interest in a just and honourable settlement, because of the PLO's positive and responsible attitude and because of the situation in the occupied territories," the King said.

The King pointed out that the PLO leadership had adopted this positive stand by recognising United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which implicitly recognises Israel and by declaring an independent Palestinian state.

The King said his talks with Mitterrand covered regional, pan-Arab and international issues and bilateral relations.

The King and Mitterrand also reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the European role in advancing the Middle East peace process, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Later in the day, the King held talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement in separate meetings and reviewed regional and international issues, Petra reported.

The talks were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and

Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

### U.S. statement rejected

Later Tuesday, the King rejected a U.S. statement saying the PLO had not fulfilled all the conditions Washington had demanded to clear the way for a peace dialogue.

The King, said on television: "I regret to have to say very clearly and frankly that (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat has replied to each of the U.S. demands."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said earlier Arafat's speech to the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva contained ambiguities on key issues.

King Hussein said Arafat's speech replied to world appeals to the PLO to agree to conditions imposed before dialogue was possible.

## King congratulates Arafat, reaffirms support for stand

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday congratulated Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat on his address before the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva.

In a telephone conversation King Hussein reaffirmed Jordan's full support for the PLO positions and its endeavours to achieve the aspirations and wishes of the Palestinian people to end the Israeli occupation and enjoy their right to self-determination and establishment of their own independent state on their national soil.

## Washington says it needs more

## Arafat offers new olive branch; Israel spurns it

GENEVA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat invited Israel to Geneva Tuesday to work out a peaceful resolution of the Middle East conflict but Israel promptly spurned the offer and accused him of advocating "terrorism" and destruction of the Zionist state.

The United States also rebuffed Arafat, saying he did not meet the conditions set by Washington for dialogue with the PLO.

"Come. Let us make peace. Cast away fear and intimidation," Arafat told a special session of the U.N. General Assembly.

"I ask the leaders of Israel to come here, under the sponsorship of the United Nations, so that together we can forge peace," Arafat said in his speech.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir described Arafat's olive branch offer as "a monumental act of deception."

Shamir said the PLO was a "terrorist" movement bent on Israel's destruction, and he hoped the United States would not agree to talk to it on the basis of Arafat's speech.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said: "The speech contained some interesting and some positive developments but it continued to be ambiguous on the key issues which must be clearly addressed in order for the United States to enter a substantive dialogue with the PLO."

The United States has listed these as: recognition of Israel's right to exist; renunciation of terrorism; and acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which accept the right of all Mideast states to live within secure borders and call for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

The speech "did not meet our conditions," Redman said. The PLO leader made his clearest denunciation yet of terrorism, saying: "I condemn (it) in all its forms..."

Arafat, speaking as provisional head of the newly proclaimed Palestinian State, unveiled a three-point peace initiative.

His initiative called for "occupied Palestinian land" to be placed under temporary U.N. supervision, the deployment of peacekeeping forces and the

withdrawal of Israeli troops.

He said the PLO would seek "a comprehensive settlement" among all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including "the State of Palestine, Israel and other neighbours, within the framework of the international conference... so as to guarantee equality and the balance of interests... and respect for the right to exist in peace and security for all."

Israeli delegation seats remained empty during Arafat's one-hour, 20-minute speech. Delegates in the hall applauded for nearly a minute afterwards.

Britain said there were some good points about Arafat's speech. "There are clearly some positive aspects in it, and it will require careful study," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

British officials said the key point of Arafat's speech was where he called for guarantees for all parties to the Middle East conflict to live in peace and security.

Israel should in return be prepared to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to exist, to self-determination, to choose their independence and sovereignty, and to live within secure, recognised and guaranteed boundaries."

Arafat rejected U.S. demands that he make further concessions to Israel as the price for talks.

"(The United States) continues to demand from us alone the acceptance of positions which cannot be determined prior to negotiation," he said. "The only possible answer is that the two parties to the conflict should be treated equally."

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day's United Nations address by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Soldiers used loudspeakers to warn the Gaza Strip's 650,000 residents to stay indoors and not violate the curfew, an Arab reporter said.

"We will open fire on anyone who breaks the curfew," the troops announced.

Despite the heavy military patrols, Gaza residents used helium-filled balloons to set afloat a giant Palestinian flag over the town and burned tyres in the streets, an Arab journalist who witnessed the event said.

Telephone lines to Palestinian refugee camps in the Gaza Strip were cut off, Palestinian sources in Gaza said.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, about 100 Palestinian women held an illegal march to show support for the PLO. They carried Palestinian flags and banners saying "My homeland is Palestine."

"No to the occupation — long live Palestine," they chanted.

## Ishaq Khan, Bhutto pledge rule of law

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan took the oath of office Tuesday and both he and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto pledged to promote constitutional rule in a country which has been under martial law for much of its 41-year history.

Ishaq Khan also emphasised his confidence in Bhutto's ability to govern, especially since her convincing victory in a parliamentary vote of confidence Monday.

"I don't think there is going to be any difficulty," Ishaq Khan told reporters after the oath-taking ceremony in the imposing presidential palace in Islamabad. "We have an elected government with a massive vote of confidence," he said.

Bhutto, wearing white, sat beside Ishaq Khan as he recited the oath in the ceremony led by Supreme Court Chief Justice Mohammad Haleem and broadcast live on state television. In the same hall Dec. 1, Ishaq Khan administered the oath to Bhutto when she became the Muslim World's first elected woman leader.

Tuesday's ceremony marked the completion of Pakistan's transition to full democracy after General Muhammad Zia Ul Haq's death in a plane crash last August ended 11 years of military rule.

Ishaq Khan, only the third elected president since Pakistan was created in 1947 when British India became independent, said he would carry out his duties "according to the constitution in a framework of parliamentary democracy."

Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party (PPP) spearheaded the struggle for civilian rule, said she was proud of being the first woman elected prime minister of a Muslim country.

"I think God has blessed our struggle, and I think that it is an honour both for Pakistan and for the Muslim World."

## Regent congratulates Ishaq Khan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to Ghulam Ishaq Khan on his election as president of Pakistan and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Pakistani people further progress and prosperity.

Prince Hassan said he was pleased to extend his heartfelt congratulations. "Your election for this high post presents an additional evidence of the confidence placed in yourself by the Pakistani people and their aspiration for further progress under your wise leadership," the Regent said. "We are looking forward to continued cooperation and brotherly relations between our countries for our common interests and for the strength of the Muslim Nation as a whole. We also look forward to have the honour of receiving you here in Jordan in the near future."

Bhutto and Ishaq Khan have expressed their mutual admiration but Bhutto has called for the repeal of a 1985 constitutional amendment authored by the late President Muhammad Zia Ul Haq that gave the president broad discretionary powers.

Such a repeal would restore the prime ministerial system in effect during the 1970s when her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was head of government.

Ishaq Khan has not commented publicly on the repeal issue and Bhutto, 35, has yet to test support of the repeal in parliament.



Death threat hangs over Higgins;  
no clue yet to Belgian's killing

## Amal, Hizbollah renew battles

BEIRUT (AP) — Fighting erupted between rival militias in Beirut's southern slums Tuesday after a two-week lull, police said.

In a separate development, spokesman said police have no way to confirm whether the faction holding a U.S. marine officer had acted on its announced death sentence against the hostage.

Police also said they did not have any suspects in the midday shooting of a 65-year-old Belgian teacher in west Beirut Monday. The Japanese widow of Arthur van Nieuwerburgh, a teacher who carried both Belgian and British passports, returned to Beirut Tuesday, one day after her husband was gunned down near her Tokyo restaurant.

"My husband is dead, I don't know what to do," Suyun Tsuchida told reporters at Beirut airport after arriving from Ankara, Turkey, where she has been looking into the prospects of opening a Japanese restaurant.

Tsuchida said she did not know why her husband was killed. She said she had been told by telephone that he had died and she had returned to Beirut.

In the southern slums, one combatant was killed and three pedestrians injured in the clashes between the Amal militia and Hizbollah, police said.

Amal and Hizbollah gunmen, vying for dominance over Lebanon's one million Shi'ites, battled with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades in the south Beirut districts of Shiyah and Hay Madi for two hours shortly after daybreak, police reported.

Many of the 16 western hostages missing in Lebanon are widely believed to be held at Hay Madi, Hizbollah's main stronghold in south Beirut.

"There was no way... to ascertain whether the hostages have been affected by the fighting," said a police spokesman.

Syrian troops in charge of security in Beirut's western sector

moves in at midmorning and stopped the clashes, the second round of violence between the two factions since Nov. 22.

Hizbollah is the umbrella for hostage-holding factions, including the kidnappers of U.S. marine Lieutenant-Colonel William R. Higgins, who call themselves the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth.

"We have issued the irrevocable sentence to execute this American spy," the group said of Higgins, 43. He was kidnapped Feb. 17 near the southern port of Tyre while working with the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon.

In a statement released in west Beirut late Monday, the group said: "The spy (Higgins) has been turned over to those responsible for executing this just and revolutionary verdict."

The 15-line Arabic statement, delivered to the independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar, did not set a date for killing Higgins.

The western hostages, in addition to Higgins, are eight Americans, three Britons, an Irishman, an Italian, a Swiss and a Belgian. In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said there were no details of the threat against Higgins beyond press reports.

"These hostages are all innocent victims," Redman said. "They should all be released immediately. Col. Higgins was on a mission of peace as a member of an international peacekeeping operation. He, like the others, is an innocent victim."

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar urged Higgins to carry out their threat to kill him. He also urged all those in a position to help to do all they could to secure his release.

## 'Arab side ready for peace'

(Continued from page 1)

been responsive to the dramatic positive changes in the Palestinian position which have been received with satisfaction and enthusiasm the world over. The negative American reaction departs from repeated American promises and pledges to reconsider the United States position regarding dealing with the PLO if the latter accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognised Israel, and renounced terrorism. That was indeed what the PLO has done by adopting the recent PNC resolutions as has just been reaffirmed by Mr. Arafat. The claim that this Palestinian position is inadequate to satisfy those conditions is an attempt to disavow both political and moral responsibilities and commitments by the United States as a superpower, as a permanent member of the Security Council and as a partner in the Middle East peace process.

"Pro-Israeli voices, especially in the United States, continue to echo some notions that there were no justifiable reasons to prompt the big powers to make serious efforts in the context of the peace process as the 'external parties' cannot be poised for peace more than the immediate parties to the conflict, and that such efforts should start off from within the region itself. These calls reflect the sentiments of the extremist elements in Israel while they overlook the true nature of the conflict and the direct role played by the external parties."

"We maintain that the convening of the international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of

the Palestinian people, on an equal footing, is the most viable way conducive to a peaceful settlement of the conflict that has been afflicting the entire region over several decades.

"It is our hope now that the new American administration will shake itself loose from the legacy it has inherited, including the recent decision taken by the secretary of state, so that it would contribute in a constructive fashion to the peace process both as a superpower as well as a power that has been providing a chief party to the conflict with all the means of strength and sustenance."

"Jordan as a chief party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and as a country having an organic association with the question of Palestine will persist in its uninterrupted efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement that guarantees desperately-needed security and stability for all the peoples of the region. Jordan will continue its constructive cooperation in the context of all sincere international drives which we deeply hope will be resumed forthwith in an intensive fashion so as to set the peace process in motion towards convening the international peace conference. In this regard, it is our hope that the good offices of the secretary-general of the United Nations will receive full support from all parties to the conflict as well as from the five permanent members of the Security Council so that the international conference will be convened as early as possible. Within the framework of such a conference, efforts will be made to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, at the core of which is the question of Palestine which will be resolved in all its aspects. Such a settlement will promote security, peace and stability not only in the Middle East region but in the entire world as well."

"This could blow it," the aide said.

Congressional aides said the military sales notification was believed to be three or four months away.

Saudi Arabia has traditionally been a major customer for U.S. military hardware.

But last summer Saudi Arabia reached a multi-year arms sale accord with Britain, potentially worth as much as \$20 billion by some estimates.

The Reagan administration said the deal hurt U.S. interests. U.S. arms sales to Arab countries regularly meet strong pro-Israeli opposition in Congress.



George Bush

## Bush told to expect clash on Saudi arms sale plan

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. senator and two members of the House of Representatives disclosed Monday they had warned President-elect George Bush that he would face a battle with Congress if he went ahead with a reported proposal for a major new arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

Congressional aides said the Reagan administration was talking about a deal valued at between \$5 billion and \$10 billion that would include F-18 fighters, missiles and Bradley fighting vehicles.

A letter to Bush signed by Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat, and Democratic representatives Mel Levine of California and Lawrence Smith of Florida, said: "We look forward to working with you on a host of domestic and international concerns..."

"We view with alarm, however, the prospect of a new divisive proposal to add our most advanced offensive weapons systems to the already teeming Saudi arsenal."

The three legislators, who are strong supporters of Israel, added: "We would hope that a bitter battle so early in your tenure can be avoided..."

One congressional aide said the administration was talking about the possible sale of 110 F-18s. The sale would be the biggest since the Reagan administration's \$8.5 billion sale of airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft to the Saudis in 1981.

The aide called the letter a shot across the bows of the incoming Bush administration. He noted that Bush would be entering office eager to win bipartisan congressional cooperation on budget and other issues.

"This could blow it," the aide said.

Congressional aides said the military sales notification was believed to be three or four months away.

Saudi Arabia has traditionally been a major customer for U.S. military hardware.

But last summer Saudi Arabia reached a multi-year arms sale accord with Britain, potentially worth as much as \$20 billion by some estimates.

The Reagan administration said the deal hurt U.S. interests. U.S. arms sales to Arab countries regularly meet strong pro-Israeli opposition in Congress.

## Moscow, Kabul see Pakistani role in Afghan peace solution

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union and Afghanistan said Monday that the new government in Pakistan could help find a peaceful solution to Afghanistan's 10-year-old war.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil also expressed willingness to meet any Afghan rebels based in Pakistan or Iran, the official TASS news agency reported.

The two ministers met in Moscow during Wakil's stopover on his way to the U.N. General Assembly's session in Geneva.

TASS quoted both ministers as saying that Pakistan "can play an important role in an Afghan settlement and assist the search for ways of starting constructive inter-Afghan dialogue."

Benazir Bhutto became Pakistan's prime minister after her party gained the most seats in elections last month.

The Soviet Union frequently denounced the support the late Pakistani president, General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, gave to Afghan rebels based in Pakistan.

Moscow has suspended its withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, accusing Pakistan of violating last April's U.N. sponsored accord. It has already pulled out half of its more than 100,000 troops in the country.

On Sunday, Moscow and Kabul said Pakistan had shot down an Afghan transport plane in eastern Afghanistan, killing 25 people.



Yuli Vorontsov

sored accord. It has already pulled out half of its more than 100,000 troops in the country.

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TASS said Wakil had expressed Kabul's support for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to the U.N. General Assembly last week for a ceasefire from Jan. 1, a halt to arms shipments and the dispatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force pending formation of a broad-based government.

The chief Soviet negotiator at talks with Afghan rebels in Saudi Arabia briefed Afghan President Najibullah on their outcome, TASS said.

It said Yuli Vorontsov, a Soviet first deputy foreign minister and ambassador to Kabul, also discussed a meeting of Afghanistan's ruling People's Democratic Party (PDPA) which gave its backing to the talks in Tashkent.

The Pakistani-based rebels hailed as a victory the Soviet decision to meet them. More senior-level discussions are planned for next month in Pakistan.

Afghanistan's Bakhtar news agency said Monday that the Tashkent discussions were "an important landmark on the road from military confrontation to a political settlement."

## Greece 'not disposed to accept lessons of behaviour from Israel'

ATHENS (AP) — Greece Tuesday denied it was soft on terrorism and rejected an Israeli protest over the deportation of a Palestinian to Libya last week.

"The government condemns all forms of terrorism and takes all measures it deems necessary to fight it," government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said at a news briefing.

Official reaction came after the Foreign Ministry called in the head of the Israeli diplomatic mission here, Moshe Gilboa, to reject a protest over Abdul Osama Al Zomar's deportation.

"The government is not disposed to accept lessons on behaviour from Israel, which systematically violates international agreements on human rights in the occupied Arab territories," Kostopoulos said.

He added that the decision to rescind an extradition agreement with Italy and deport Zomar, 27, to Libya "does not change Greece's position on the issue of terrorism."

The decision drew sharp criticism from Italy and the United

States. Secretary of State George Shultz said last week while visiting Brussels, Belgium, that "this release is bad... and I am shocked by it."

But State Department officials say they still hope Greece will grant an American extradition request for Palestinian Mohammad Rashid, wanted in the U.S. for the 1982 mid-air bombing of a PanAm jetliner that resulted in the death of a Japanese teenager.

The supreme court has postponed its decision on extraditing the 39-year-old Palestinian saying that key documents in the case were missing. Rashid was arrested here last May on a tip from the U.S. embassy.

A spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) here said Rashid, a PLO member, has gone on a hunger strike. "He started a hunger strike Saturday because he wants to be released," said the spokesman, who requested anonymity.

Greece has said the Rashid case is not related to Zomar's deportation.

Zomar, an alleged member of the Abu Nidal faction, is wanted in Italy for involvement in an October 1982 grenade attack against Rome's main synagogue that killed one and injured 37.

Zomar was arrested on the Greek-Turkish border a month later while driving a car loaded with explosives.

He was sentenced to 20 months for arms smuggling but remained jailed during a long-drawn out extradition process.

The Greek supreme court approved the Italian extradition request in November 1984 but it was never carried out. Zomar was sentenced to another 20 months in March 1987 after a knife was found in his prison cell.

The government spokesman said Zomar was released after the justice minister deemed the "Palestinian had already served many years in a Greek jail."

Justice Minister Vassilis Rotis, who has the final say in such cases, said he overturned the extradition agreement "because he (Zomar) was acting in the struggle for the reacquisition of his country."

## King Hassan II crowns diplomatic successes with Casablanca summit

By Jonathan Clayton  
Reuters

CASABLANCA — Morocco's King Hassan plans to use the 15th summit of French-speaking African countries to signal a triumphant return to the forefront of African politics, diplomats say.

After a year of quiet diplomatic successes, King Hassan will welcome 25 other heads of state to the commercial capital of the kingdom Thursday. It will be the largest turnout for such a meeting.

The local press has stressed that twice as many leaders will attend the Casablanca Franco-African summit as went to last June's summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa.

Morocco walked out of the OAU in 1984 after it admitted Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence for Western Sahara, annexed by King Hassan in 1976.

"It is an impressive showing

for a country that is not a member of the main pan-African body," said one Western diplomat based in the royal capital of Rabat.

"Hassan will pull out all the stops to show that the OAU needs Morocco more than Morocco needs the OAU," he added.

A total of 37 countries, mostly former French colonies, are expected to be represented in Casablanca for what should be a lavish affair. French President Francois Mitterrand, accompanied by a bevy of top ministers, will attend.

For the last four weeks, workmen have been sprucing up the Atlantic port city, repainting the white facades of former French colonial buildings and planting new palm trees on the main boulevards.

Unofficial estimates put the cost as high as \$20 million, but government sources stress that some of the money was already earmarked for Casablanca improvement schemes.

Villas of wealthy businessmen and close associates of the king have been reserved for the guests. Mitterrand will stay at the home of a former leader of Morocco's influential Sephardic Jewish community.

The summit's main theme, chosen by the host country, will be East-West détente and its implications for North-South development, but other issues will also be raised.

Most notable is a French initiative to lessen the debt burden of developing nations. Mitterrand proposed writing off one-third of the debt of impoverished nations.

A joint meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank ratified the proposal in July, but it has yet to be formally adopted by Western industrial nations.

Political analysts said King Hassan was confident he had turned the tables on the Polisario in the 13-year war for

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 'Iran received 50 jets from China'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran received the final delivery of 50 fighter jets from China before the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the war against Iraq, diplomatic sources said Monday. Disassembled J-6 and F-7 jets, Chinese versions of the Soviet-built MiG-19 and MiG-21, were delivered by ship through the Iranian Gulf port of Bandar Abbas, a key naval and air base, over a three-year period, the sources said. The jets, along with a large quantity of air-to-air missiles, were allocated to the Revolutionary Guards' air wing, not the regular air force, according to the sources. Western military officials could not confirm the delivery. But Don Kerr, an aviation specialist with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the jets had been expected "for some time" as the Revolutionary Guards built up.

### Egypt, Israel discuss Taba markers

CAIRO (R) — Liaison teams from Egypt and Israel met in north Sinai Monday to consider details of an arbitration ruling restoring the beach resort of Taba to Egypt. An Egyptian delegate said they discussed the placing of new border markers in accordance with the verdict of the five-judge arbitration panel in September. "The meeting today was in a very good atmosphere," Ibrahim Youssri, director of the Legal Department of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, told reporters.

### Mahdi criticises UAE decision

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi has criticised a decision by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to recall its ambassador to Khartoum to protest the release of a man who stormed the UAE embassy last month. "It is a misplaced decision as it was made to protect a judicial procedure to release the man and not a government decision to do so," Mahdi told reporters. The UAE news agency WAM said Sunday Ambassador Mohammed Sultan Al Swidi was being recalled to ensure his safety. It quoted a senior Foreign Ministry official as demanding punishment for the man, Sudanese national Issam Abdul Rahman Abdulla.

### Fahd meets French minister

NICOSIA (R) — French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd discussed Middle East issues including the Gulf war during a meeting in Riyadh, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported Tuesday. The agency quoted Joxe as saying after the Monday meeting that the talks included the situation in Lebanon and the need to establish lasting peace in the Gulf.

### Poisonous snakes threaten Iranian village

NICOSIA (R) — Poisonous snakes are advancing in large numbers on a village in central Iran and threatening its inhabitants, Tehran Radio said Monday. The radio said the snakes were heading for Bonestan, about 600 kilometres southeast of Tehran. The type of snake was not known.

### Conference to focus on Islamic ways

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — Islamic states of the Middle East want cultural and economic independence for themselves, ambitions often mistaken as anti-Western, a university specialist said Monday. Some of the ways Islamic states are reasserting themselves in global politics and economics will be the subject of a four-conference series produced by Florida State University religion professor John Kelsay and by James Johnson of Rutgers University. Beginning this month at Rutgers in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and running through May, the conferences will compare the Western and Islamic religious and cultural traditions of war, peace and state affairs.

### Power failure throughout Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait suffered a total power failure Tuesday morning and a spokesman for the Ministry of Electricity and Water said it was caused by a major technical fault at the Shuwaik power plant. The plant is the mother station for the country's entire power distribution network. Electricity was cut off at about 10.00 a.m. (0700 GMT). Key facilities, including hospitals, the radio and television stations resorted to backup generators. But in the streets, chaos struck as traffic lights went off.



King Hassan II

control of Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony, with patient wait-and-see tactics. He has accepted in principle a U.N. peace plan calling for a referendum in the territory and restored ties with Algeria and other strong backers of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) such as India and Yugoslavia.

The analysts said Sunday's admission by the Polisario that its guerrillas shot down a U.S. aid plane by mistake, killing five Americans, could only strengthen his hand.

They said it would increase pressure on the front to drop objections to a U.N.-mediated ceasefire at talks in Geneva next week.

The front said in a statement the destruction of the U.S.-hired aircraft last Thursday was a tragic accident which it deeply regretted.

It said guerrillas opened fire on the low-flying DC-7 about 27 kilometres from Moroccan defence lines after mistaking it

and, another aid plane for Moroccan C-130 military transports.

"This could not have come at a worse time for them. They were already up against it and now they will have to make concessions to hang on to diplomatic support," one North African analyst said.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:50 ..... Programme review  
15:55 ..... Children's programmes  
17:30 ..... Educational programmes  
18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic

18:05 ..... Cairo news message  
18:15 ..... Local series  
18:50 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series

21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Local programme  
22:10 ..... Wrestling  
23:40 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Television magazine

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Champs Elysees  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Aujourd'hui En Jordanie  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Kate and Allie  
21:10 ..... Return Journey  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Echoes

### PRAYER TIMES

05:00 ..... Fajr  
06:23 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:30 ..... Dhuhur  
14:15 ..... Asr  
16:30 ..... Maghreb  
18:00 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrace Church Tel. 622360  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 638343.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Assuan International Church Tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with chance for scattered showers. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with chance for thunderstorms. Winds will be southerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp. 6/16  
Aqaba ..... 12/21  
Desert ..... 5/16  
Jordan Valley ..... 10/21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ward Khartabil ..... 615035  
Dr. Anwar Al Aghabawi ..... 642696  
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar ..... 775050  
Dr. Mahmoud Jabr ..... 896691  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Al Omari ..... (-)  
Al Sharara pharmacy ..... 985238

ZARQA:  
Dr. Jihad Mudeh ..... (-)  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

## EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 198, 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 778303  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 639141  
Public Security Directorate ..... 636140  
Overseas Calls ..... 656000 / 685111  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 12  
Overseas Calls ..... 656000 / 685111  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 639141  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815015  
Electric Power Company ..... 648411, 636381  
Bus Flight Information ..... 68-53200  
Queen Aila Int. Airport ..... 68-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6442816  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 6424162  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amn. .... 641714  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 661714  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 645845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 6672779  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 7710173  
Italian, Al-Muasher ..... 6641646  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 7751173  
Army, Marfa ..... 89161175  
Queen Aila Hospital ..... 60224050  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27275  
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apples ..... 300 / 400  
Bananas ..... 300 / 300  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 300 / 350  
Beans ..... 400 / 300  
Cabbage ..... 140 / 100  
Carrots ..... 260 / 220  
Cauliflowers ..... 180 / 120  
Cucumbers ..... 200 / 160  
Dates ..... 600 / 500  
Eggplant (large)



## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLES:** His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday delegated the director of Karak Police Department to convey his condolences to Al Majali family over the death of the late Abdul Qader Mubarak Al Majali. (Petra)

**MA'AN-AQABA ROAD CLOSED:** The road between Ma'an and Aqaba has now become closed for traffic in view of the slippery roads resulting from rainfall and dust, particularly in the area of Ras Al Naqab. Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Tuesday. The PSD called on all drivers to drive carefully to avoid accidents. (Petra)

**EXHIBITION OF KING'S PHOTOS:** The Department of Education here Tuesday organized an exhibition of His Majesty King Hussein's photographs on the monarch's 53rd birthday. The exhibition, which depicts development in Jordan under King Hussein and displays posters about the main development projects in Jordan, was inaugurated by district Governor Mahmoud Al San. (Petra)

**ART EXHIBITION:** Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid Tuesday inaugurated the week-long ceramic exhibition of the Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi, held at Alia art gallery. Also attending the inauguration of the exhibition was Princess Wijdan Ali, chairperson of the Royal Society for Fine Arts. (Petra)

**LAWZI, SUDDARTH HOLD TALKS:** Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi Tuesday reviewed parliamentary relations with the United States Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth. (Petra)

**DELEGATION ENDS OMAN VISIT:** A delegation representing Greater Amman Municipality Tuesday concluded a ten-day official visit to Muscat where they held talks with Omani officials on bilateral cooperation between Greater Amman Municipality and Muscat Municipality. (Petra)

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE:** Ministry of Social Development has decided to set up a social development centre in Mawqar district to offer social services to the citizens in line with the government's policy to develop the Jordanian badia. (Petra)

**DUDIN MEETS ENVOYS:** Labour Minister Marwan Dudin Tuesday reviewed bilateral cooperation with Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Mahab Mughil. Minister of Social Development Fawaz Tougan also received the Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback and discussed with him bilateral cooperation in the field of social development and prospects for cooperation in the field of care for the handicapped. (Petra)

**NEW STAMPS:** The Post Office and Postal Savings Corporation Tuesday circulated new stamps of 60 and 90 fils denomination to mark the silver jubilee of the Royal Jordanian, which falls on Thursday. (Petra)

## Murderer arrested

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Tuesday announced the arrest of the assassin of the 50-year-old fuel station worker, identified as Mohammad Mustafa Abu Tayeh, who was found dead Sunday at Juweihan petrol station where he works.

Abu Tayeh was shot in the head and an amount of JD 870 was stolen from the fuel station that he used to work for. Majali said that the assassin was apprehended near the Sports City gate number four and that a 9mm. unlicensed pistol was found with him.

The police found a 9mm. calibre cartridge in the crime theatre and compared it with another shot from the same pistol and found that the bullet came from the same pistol.

Majali added that during investigation the man admitted to the killing and stealing the money.

## Ministry denies reports on plan to ban fresh meat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply Tuesday denied reports in the Jordanian press that a decision had been taken to ban imports of fresh meat.

A spokesman for the ministry said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Ministry of Supply was keen on providing the local markets with sufficient amounts of locally produced or imported meat.

Earlier reports in the press said that the concerned authorities were planning to ban imports of fresh meat and to import additional quantities of frozen meat as a substitute, and to import fish and increase poultry meat production to make up for any shortages in meat.

## Japanese parliamentary team ends 2-day visit

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The head of Japanese parliament's foreign affairs committee Mr. Eitaro Itoyama and his accompanying delegation left Amman Tuesday at the end of a two-day visit, during which they were received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and cabinet ministers.

The talks covered Middle East development, current efforts to establish peace in the region, and cooperation especially in economic fields.

The six-member delegation toured a number of institutions including the Royal Scientific Society and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and examined their programmes.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Armenian Community Council for Relief of Earthquake Victims in Armenia announces that it will also receive donations in cash and kind at the Engineering Enterprises Co. Hussein Ibn Ali Street (adjacent to Kashmir Restaurant and opposite Riad Centre) Tel. 641650, 648648.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

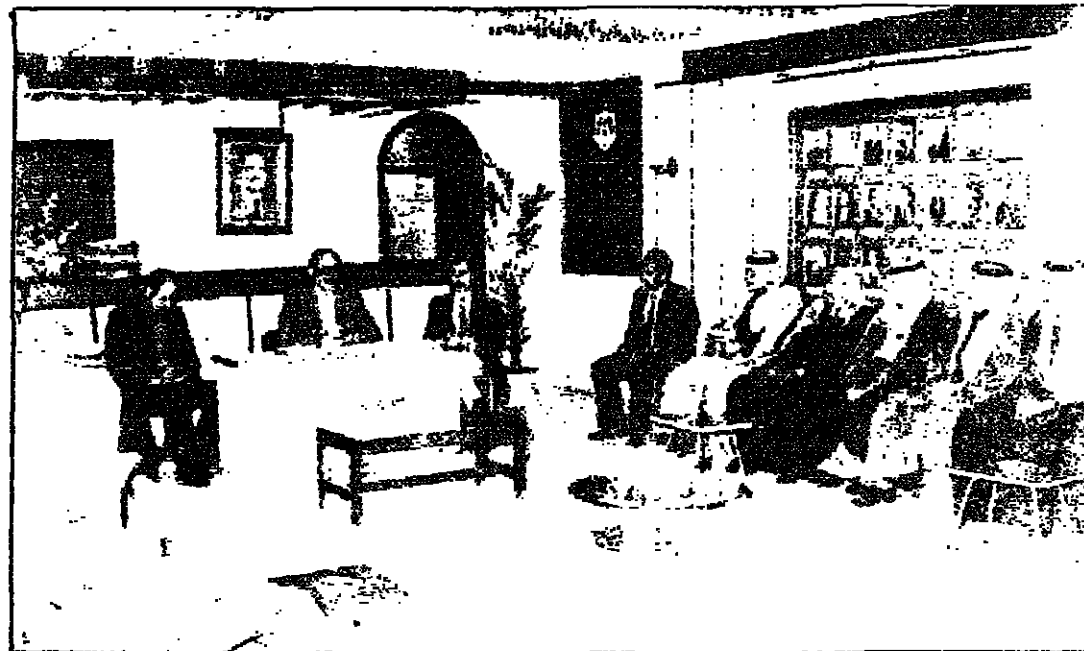
- A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- The Moldavian public art exhibition, which includes handicrafts, embroideries, and costumes representing the Moldavian folklore, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of pottery and ceramics by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at Alia Gallery Hall.
- An exhibition of His Majesty King Hussein's photos marking his 53rd birthday besides exhibiting books showing development in the Kingdom under King Hussein, at Deir Abu Sa'id.
- An exhibition of educational aids at Al Samt School, Deir Abu Sa'id.

### THEATRE

- An Arabic play entitled "Ya 'Antar" at the National Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- A lecture at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation by Dr. Nicola Zideh entitled "History of the Arab World" — 6:00 p.m.



Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Tuesday announces preparations for a meeting in Azraq (Petra photo)

## Azraq meeting on Dec. 21 to discuss badia development

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting will be held in Azraq on Dec. 21 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to discuss the development of the badia (desert) region of Jordan, according to an announcement here Tuesday.

The announcement was made following a meeting held under the chairmanship of Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to prepare for the Dec. 21 meeting. The meeting will tackle all aspects of development in the desert areas which form nearly 70 per cent of Jordan's territory.

At the preparatory meeting, Amin discussed the tasks of four sub-committees entrusted with discussing housing, development of manpower, infrastructure and social services, agriculture and the development of pasture land in the badia regions.

Amin said that preliminary studies on the badia region proved the presence of vast water and mineral resources and a major prospect for the development of pasture land which could form a good basis for economic development.

During a general meeting held

in Mu'ta near Karak last month to discuss the development of Ma'an, Karak and Tafila regions, Prince Hassan said that the desert lands of Jordan serve as a common denominator shared by all governorates and await serious development work on the part of the public and private sectors.

He said there was a dire need for close and serious cooperation between the governorates of the north, the south and the central regions of the Kingdom if real development in the arid and desert parts of the country is to be achieved.

## Jordan, Soviet Union agree to increase volume of trade

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan and the Soviet Union have concluded an agreement on trade between them to be conducted on equitable basis in a manner that would achieve a balance in trade and increase the volume of exchanged products, according to the head of a Jordanian delegation which visited Moscow for economic talks in the past week.

The two sides also agreed on Jordan to organise a fair of its national products in Moscow, to be allowed to sell goods worth between \$5 and \$10 million directly, but that agreement on the final trade figure in this context will be made during a meeting between a joint committee which will convene in Moscow in the first quarter of 1989, according to the delegation leader, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

Saqqaf, who returned to Amman from Moscow early Tuesday, said discussions with the Soviet side covered a wide variety of subjects mainly concentrating on economic and trade cooperation.

"The talks were held in an atmosphere marked with complete understanding and a strong desire on both sides to promote economic ties and increase the volume of trade between them," Saqqaf noted.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade sources, Jordan at present imports iron ore, timber, paper, equipment and chemicals from the Soviet Union and hopes to sell that country phosphate and other products.

Saqqaf said that one of the Soviet republics has expressed desire to purchase 40 types of Jordanian products including toothpaste, tissue paper, cosmetics, woollen cloth, cotton material, socks, gas ranges, nylon bags, refrigerators, washing machines, domestic appliances, furniture, nails, wooden doors, metal pipes, leather shoes and frame for eyeglasses, leather suitcases, paint, yeast pesticides, ball point pens, detergents and electric materials.

According to Saqqaf, the Jordanian delegation informed the Soviet side that Jordan wishes

to purchase the following products from the Soviet Union: iron ore, timber, paper, chemical and industrial materials, auto spare parts and machinery, as well as certain types of glass.

He said the Soviet side agreed to join Jordan in setting up a plant to produce fertilisers and import 50 per cent of the total production, as well as helping to market the rest of the production in other countries.

A joint committee was set up to conduct a feasibility study on the project before further steps can be taken, Saqqaf said.

He added that the Soviet side agreed to conduct a study on a Jordanian plant to produce timber for industry and to supply the plant with raw material.

According to Saqqaf, the Jordanian side proposed that the Soviet Union send tourist groups on visits to Jordan, and that the subject be added on the agenda of the joint committee meeting due to convene in the coming year.

Saqqaf said that the Ministries of Tourism in both countries will follow up the subject after the committee meeting.

## Yarmouk seminar discusses cereal production in Jordan

IRBID (Petra) — A seminar on cereal production in Jordan was held at Yarmouk University Monday with the participation of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and the university's professors.

University President Mohammad Hamdan, who opened the sessions, underlined the importance of cereal production especially in the Irbid region

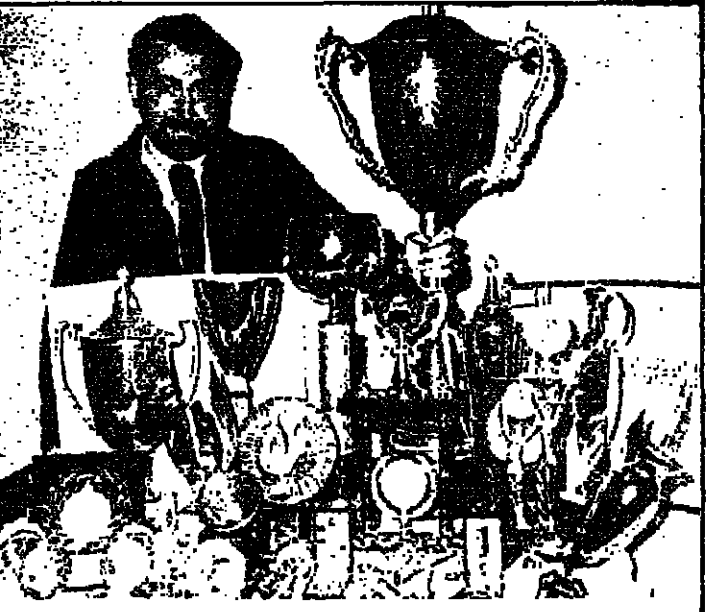
which produces most of the wheat and barley in the country.

The participants discussed a working paper prepared by a group of professors at Jordanian universities dealing with agriculture which they said secures income for 20 per cent of the Kingdom's population and provides work for 12 per cent of the total work force in the country, in addition to its importance as a

means to ensure food security and help improve the country's balance of trade.

The paper discussed the reasons behind a poor cereal production mainly due to poor rainfall, soil erosion and improper care for soil.

The participants came up with several proposals designed to help farmers increase their output.



## Hairstylist wins major award

The first Arab hairstylist has recently won the international Cup of the World Hairdressing Festival in Cannes, France, marking a for its tough competition of renowned hairstylists from 33 countries including five Arab countries. George Sarkis, originally from Lebanon, but residing in Jordan, has added yet another trophy to his collection. He has been recognised internationally for his creative hairstyling several times over the years. He is seen in this picture with his many trophies.

## Ghandour calls for more aggressive sales, marketing campaign

By Rania Atalla  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman Ali Ghandour Tuesday called on his staff to adopt an aggressive sales and marketing strategy to realise the national airline's full potential in the world market.

"I wish to make it clear that I am not for a moment suggesting that in the pursuit of yield improvement, we end up trading yield for load factor," Ghandour told the airline's 25th annual marketing and sales conference. "I believe in enlightened and aggressive salesmanship and our objectives by and large should be met."

The RJ chairman and chief executive officer said that Jordan's national airliner has matured to become a "world-class carrier," and that since it had an "excellent product" to sell, it should now address the core issue of achieving the best possible yield in the context of the prevailing fare structure.

Because yield-management is proving to be a key factor in the improving performance of any consequential airline, it is incumbent upon us in today's competitive climate to achieve the best possible yield within the prevailing fare structure," Ghandour said. "There is a great deal a company can do to obtain maximum benefit for itself within that structure."

Ghandour believes RJ should be doing much better in first and business class sales and that there was still room for improvement in economy-class sales as well. The national airliner, he said, should pursue its targets aggressively in

order to achieve its rightful share of the market.

He announced that the airline was about to adopt a new formula to be applied after it is discussed by conference participants.

Under the new formula, targets will be measured by the following determinants: Yield and its relation to cost; first and business class business; collection of revenues; station cost as a ratio of net revenue; revenue per employee; government and inter-line relations, in addition to compliance with RJ rules and regulations currently in force.

The above criteria, the RJ chairman said, sets "new dimensions" and presents a challenge which the company had not previously anticipated or hoped for.

RJ's Marketing and Sales Vice President Ghassan Ali said the new criteria will help in evaluating the performance of RJ's area managers.

Previously their performance was measured according to revenue and traffic. "We are now trying to make a more global evaluation by including other important factors," Ali told the Jordan Times.

In his address to the conference, Ali said the introduction of "global distribution systems," which is essential to the improvement of the industry's competitive position, has enhanced the

marketing war in the aviation industry.

In order to maintain its position in that competitive market, Ali said, it was essential for RJ seriously reconsider its marketing approaches, not only in price scales, but in a strategy to generate new high yield traffic.

"It is of paramount importance that you should immediately formulate plans for direct or indirect sales while maintaining an aggressive strategy with the marketplace," Ali told conference participants. "Higher yields are an insurance policy for survival in this is your main duty and target for 1989."

Performance in 1988

Reviewing RJ's performance for 1988, Ali noted that the factor had increased from 58 per cent in 1987 to 63.3 per cent in 1988. RJ's net passenger revenue had recorded a double digit growth rate of 13.9 per cent, an accomplishment which could have been "further exploited" were not hit by the negative uncertainty in the area and noticeable reduction of our "Land tourism."

He noted that RJ's traffic revenue performance could have been much better had the airline improved its marketing approach and followed a more "systematic" technique in accordance with sales and services manual, reservation and administrative procedures.

Yield management continues to be neglected, Ali said, adding that there has been a 2.8 per cent drop in passenger yield since 1987, a figure which he said, "is low to start with."

## Jordan, Egypt and Iraq agree on amendments for maritime company

CAIRO (J.T.) — Ministers of Transport in Jordan, Egypt and Iraq Tuesday concluded meetings in which they discussed means of promoting the operations of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company, set up by their countries in the past year, and signed the minutes of the meetings which began in Cairo Saturday.

Jordan's Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said the signing of the minutes crowned talks he held with his Egyptian and Iraqi counterparts Youssef Mitwally and Mohammad Al Zubeidi.

The minutes included amendments to the charter of the joint company, which will have its headquarters in Amman, and which will have the right to open branches and offices in other countries, as well as in Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, Haj Hassan noted.

The main amendment provides for the joint company to carry out maritime and land transport operations, carry goods and passengers for the three countries and other states and can sell, buy and rent property, invest in projects and take ownership of vessels to facilitate its operations. The minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"From now on, the company board can conclude agreements and draw up contracts with other parties, can entrust agents to conduct maritime and land transport operations and clearing services on its behalf," the minister noted.

Haj Hassan said that no one party can nationalise any part of the property owned by the company, nor can it impound vessels. The minister said the company's general assembly express-

ed satisfaction with the company's operations which realised a surplus in revenues of \$1,920 million by the end of October 1988.

The minister said that the general assembly approved a 1989 budget which includes a total revenue of \$69,761 million and overall expenditure of \$58,479 million, with a surplus of \$11,281 million.

Haj Hassan announced that the general assembly decided not to raise the company's transportation fares at present to maintain its competitiveness with other companies.

At the opening session, it was announced that the company this year transported 600,000 passengers and 40,000 tonnes of goods in addition to 35,000 vehicles aboard ferry boats via the Nuweibeh-Aqaba land-sea route.

The three ministers, accompanied by their delegations, focused on the company's programmes for the coming year, revenues and expenditure forecast for 1989, and means of improving transport facilities and services for the benefit for their three countries.

According to Petra, the meeting also discussed the transportation of one million tonnes Iraqi cement to Egypt via Aqaba-Nuweibeh route.

Haj Hassan said the meeting decided to form a tripartite committee to hold meetings every three months to follow up transport activities and to study ways to solve problems that impede the company's transportation programme.

The minister was quoted in Petra as saying that other states are welcome to join the company and help promote Arab World's transport ties.

Meanwhile later Tuesday, Haj Hassan announced that Jordan has decided to open ten telephone channels to facilitate contacts between Iraq and Egypt.

The minister said the decision was put into immediate effect, manifestation of Jordan's determination to bolster its relations with the two countries at all levels.

## Jordan Intercontinental to mark 25th anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — March 15, 1989, will mark the 25th anniversary of Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.

The hotel's General Manager Gabriel Khawam said, on this occasion a National Shooting Contest will take place during this month under the patronage of

His Majesty King Hussein II. A large number of sports will participate in this event. The hotel was founded in 1964 and ever since the hotel has played an enormous role in enhancing the industry and contributing positively in activating tourism in Jordan.



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## Partners in search for peace

THE OFFICIAL visit of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to France could not have come at a more opportune time. With the Arab-Israeli conflict ever more in the limelight, especially in the wake of the PLO's most recent clearer-than-ever acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and as fortified by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's important speech before the U.N. General Assembly in Geneva Tuesday, the stage is now set for accelerating the momentum in pursuing a durable and just settlement for the Palestinian question and for all the other dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Against this backdrop the on-going talks between King Hussein and President Francois Mitterrand are most timely, both on the bilateral level as well as on the regional level. In this context it is fitting to recall that Paris plays a pivotal role in the European Economic Community and in shaping and determining its stance on the war and peace issues of the Middle East. Equally relevant to recall is that the King held important talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher last week with a view to accentuating the European support for the proposal to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. Last week the King also expressed optimism that next spring will witness a real and tangible movement towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

All that remains to put the Middle East puzzle together is to convince the Israeli body politic that convening an international peace conference on the Middle East has become inevitable. All that separates the Arabs and Israelis from genuine and permanent peace is the die-hard political dinosaurs within the Israeli establishment who refuse to see an opportunity for peace when there is clearly one.

Furthermore, Jordan and France enjoy the best of relations, and the on-going visit to France by the King and Queen would most certainly crown this happy and mutually beneficial relation with yet additional confidence building blocks to cement the Franco-Jordanian friendship and invigorate the process of peace in the Middle East. As Paris enjoys a special global as well as European role, a role most effective in lending support to the search for peace in the Middle East region, Amman likewise plays a pivotal role in realising the kind of durable peace that humanity at large is yearning for. Their Majesties' visit to France is therefore a voyage for peace in the Middle East as well as another boost to French-Jordanian relations.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Both Arabic dailies Al Ra'i and Al Dustour wrote Tuesday on King Hussein's current visit to France and on the nature of the King's talks with President Mitterrand. Al Ra'i daily said that the talks are significant in view of France's status within the European Community and the role which it can play to help find a solution for the Middle East problem. The King's talks in Paris coincide with a speech to be delivered to a U.N. session in Geneva by PLO leader Yasser Arafat, also on the Palestine issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. It said that both leaders are seeking the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and enlisting the help of the world community in that regard. Any European move towards a just and lasting solution in our region will be a favourable and constructive response to the positive stand of the Arab Nation, and the calls for justice based on resolutions issued by the World Organisation and supported by the world community at large, the paper added. It said that there is no doubt that the King's talks in Paris will give further impetus to the current Arab drive for peace.

## 'Miracle' in the Indian Ocean

Editor's note — A volcanic dot 1,600 kilometres out in the Indian Ocean from Africa, the island-nation of Mauritius is in the midst of an economic boom. What is being called the "Mauritius Miracle" has turned a backward economy around so drastically that now nearly everybody works, money is flowing in and ethnic tensions have eased, at least for now. An AP correspondent who visited the island tells how it all came about.

By Robert Weller  
The Associated Press

### Caution

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius — Just six years ago its sugar-dominated economy was reeling and 22 per cent of its work force was unemployed, but today this island nation is an economic tiger in the Indian Ocean.

As fast as the taxi drivers take on its kamikaze-style narrow roads, Mauritius has hurtled from Third World low-income economic status to a middle-income nation where practically everybody has a job and the money is pouring in — from tourists flocking to its beaches to new industry implanted by foreign investment, chiefly from Asian.

Som call it the "Mauritius Miracle," but the prime minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, won't have it. "There is no miracle," he said. "It is due simply to hard work, discipline and will."

### Investment

Mauritius authorities have actively courted foreign investment, and slashed corporate taxes and removed duties on many items to entice investors to a special export zone. The island also has benefited from an improved world economy, lower petroleum prices and an absence of cyclones during the sugar season. Most important, perhaps, has been a big influx of money from Hong Kong and other Asian nations — some of which had already reached their export quotas with Western nations and shifted production to Mauritius.

Here are some of the benefits Mauritius has reaped from its efforts:

— Real growth has averaged 7 per cent since 1983, largely as a result of the foreign investment aggressively sought by the government.

— Unemployment has declined to just under 4 per cent, virtual full employment, with jobs in some sectors going begging. From 1985 to 1987, 20,000 new jobs were created each year in manufacturing alone among the island's 1 million people and it has replaced sugar as the main industry.

— Annual per capita income is estimated at \$2,000 — up from \$1,000 six years ago — on the 1,860-square-kilometre, pear-shaped volcanic island 800 kilometres east of Madagascar and 1,600 kilometres east of the African mainland.

— Earnings from tourists drawn to Mauritius' beaches doubled during the same period, and excellent sugar harvests have further fuelled the boom.

The chief opposition leader, Prem Nabsang, acknowledges: "It is a fact that there has been great progress. We have had a good programme from the government side on investments."

Jugnauth, in an interview, cautioned, however, that the success could disappear as quickly as it came "and that is why I always call upon our people to be reasonable, to be fair and not to think that we have already achieved success for eternity."

The government is working on setting up an offshore banking centre and stock exchange. It hopes to replace South Africa as a regional centre for international companies and to become a stepping stone for Asian firms interested in Africa.

The growth rate has already begun to slow down, which is just what the country needs, said Finance Minister Vishnu Lutchmeraidoo.

He said "inflation is soaring," rising from less than 1 per cent to 15 per cent in the past year, and the country is seriously short of skilled labour.

Slower growth will give Mauritius time to work on curbing pollution, improving the quality of life and training workers for more specialised jobs. The goal is to shift from the manufacture of knitted woolen garments, its chief export, to electronics and other higher-price items.

A quality-of-life department has been set up, financed by liquor and cigarette taxes, and it plans exercise and health-food campaigns and a nationwide anti-smoking programme.

Large amounts will be spent on environmental programmes. "We are very much aware that if the present growth rate is maintained and corrective measures are not taken we are heading towards a dirty Mauritius, a rich and dirty Mauritius," said Finance Minister Lutchmeraidoo.

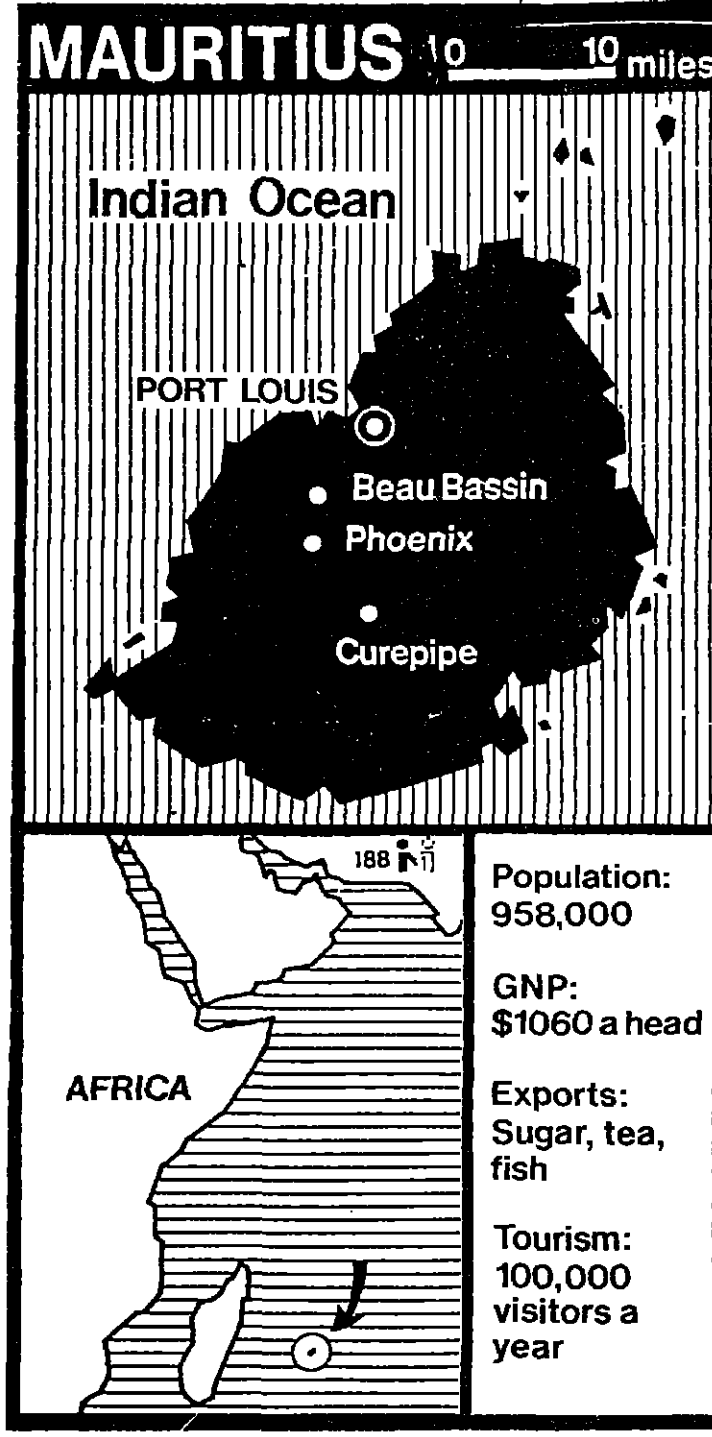
There's much to save. Graceful mountains rise dramatically above the cane fields, appearing higher than their altitudes. Piton de la Riviere Noire is the highest at 826 metres.

### Twain's paradise

Buddhist pagodas, Hindu shivalas, Tamil temples, Muslim mosques and Christian cathedrals dot the landscape on an island that mark Twain said "was created before paradise came into being and served as a model for the latter."

But slowing down the economy further isn't easy. Lutchmeraidoo said. Investment is continuing — more than 1,500 hotel rooms are under construction and the government recently approved a 15-per cent increase in the minimum wage to \$10.35 a week for employees working in manufacturing. However, with labour in demand most workers are paid far above the minimum.

There is no sign of complacency among government officials or businessmen. "We cannot afford to sit on our backsides," said Danielle Wong, manager of the



Mauritius export processing zone.

Speaking to a group of African businessmen and women at a seminar on the Mauritius economic boom, she said protectionism and competition from other developing countries meant there was no time for relaxing.

Delegates from half a dozen East African countries were clearly impressed, several noting their governments had endorsed similar export efforts but done nothing.

Ondiek Okelo of the Kenya trade promotion centre said, "this is where it has happened. This is a great success story. We've have been very impressed."

The export zone's more than 500 businesses employ more than 90,000 people.

### Jokes, jokes

This courtship of government and industry began after the 1982 elections, which themselves served as a guide to Mauritius. Jokes were made during that election about the economy being as dead as the dodo bird, which became extinct after Dutch hunters here wiped them out several centuries ago.

An alliance led by the Jugnauth's Mauritius Militant Movement (MMM) defeated the pro-Western government, taking all 60 elected seats. But Jugnauth's government immediately began implementing the suggestions of Western creditors.

Meanwhile, Jugnauth was expelled from the MMM leadership and forced to form his own party

a year after winning the election. His new party, the Mauritian Socialist Movement, has led an alliance that has won two subsequent elections.

Jugnauth's alliance controls two-thirds of the seats in parliament, although it won only 9,512 votes more than the opposition in last year's election in which 89 per cent of the electorate cast ballots.

In Mauritius terms, this is political stability and both opposition leader Nababsing, who is with the MMM, and Finance Minister Lutchmeraidoo credit it with a big role in the country's economic development.

"I don't see any other party changing what we are doing," said Lutchmeraidoo.

Rather than proposing major reforms in the liberal economic changes, Nababsing says, it was his party, the former party of the prime minister, that initiated them.

Nababsing does criticise the government, saying it has been too slow to diversify, and that growth is slowing, inflation is out of control and more attention needs to be paid to avoiding ethnic divisions.

Since independence from Britain in 1968, governments have been careful to avoid fanning ethnic divisions among various groups in the Hindu majority or other groups.

## Bahrain woos foreign firms for joint ventures

By Mariam Alkhalifa  
Reuters

BAHRAIN — Bahrain is wooing foreign firms in a determined bid to set up joint-venture industries to create jobs and breathe life into the island's flagging economy.

Industry sources said the government's new Industrial Development Centre (IDC) had launched a major drive to identify viable projects and then persuade local and foreign firms to take part — with a minimum of red tape.

Bahrain was also trying to attract overseas investment by selling itself at international seminars and developing an industrial "free zone" which would compete with one already flourishing in the United Arab Emirates of Jebel Ali.

"We are trying to identify companies which are significantly exporting to the Middle East and point out to them the advantages of establishing a subsidiary in Bahrain from which they can serve the region," IDC advisor Brian Cogan told Reuters.

"We have also studied import statistics to try and identify the products imported in volume into the Middle East which could be produced here."

Officials said the government had pinpointed 13 viable projects ranging from an iron and steel re-rolling mill to factories for making aluminium foil, tools, soap, insecticides and medical dressings.

Several projects were already under negotiation while two Bahraini firms had recently signed agreements with foreign partners to produce copper tubes and corn oil.

### New plans

At the same time, the government is considering plans for a propylene and polypropylene plant to produce the molded plastic used to make bottles, pipes and furniture from propane, a refined oil product.

An iron pellet plant shut three years ago is due to re-open by the end of December, while two of the island's government-owned industries — an aluminium smelter and a gas processing plant — are undergoing major expansions.

An ambitious \$640-million modernisation plan for the Bahrain petroleum company's 250,000 barrel-per-day refinery, the oldest in the Gulf, is also being studied.

Bahrain's development and industry secretary, Sheikh Isa Bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, told Reuters the plan was to double the amount of industrial activity on the island by the year 2000.

"We want the private sector to take a major role in industry so that the sector will expand and contribute more to the economy," he said.

"But we must be able to provide the private sector with incentives to encourage them to participate. The most important factor is employment — we want to create new jobs."

With 73 per cent of the national population under the age of 30 and the island's economy still heavily dependent on oil re-

venues, officials say a job crunch is looming.

Bahrain did not release annual budget figures for 1987 but the official Gulf News Agency said in September the island's trade deficit jumped by more than 200 per cent during the year to 125 million dinars (\$332 million).

### Falling revenues

Oil revenues fell by 1.4 million dinars (\$3.7 million) to 740 million dinars (\$2 billion) and economists say steep falls in oil prices during 1988 would have further weakened economic performance.

Bahrain's offshore banking centre, set up with high hopes during the 1970's oil boom, is beginning to recover from a painful decade marked by bad loans and a regional recession.

But many foreign banks are continuing to cut back and the number on the island has dropped to 64 from a peak of 75.

Officials say further diversification of the economy is needed, and industry is one sector with possibilities.

"The money is there," Industry Director Khalid Ashoor said. "But it's not easy to attract private investors and convince them to make a long-term investment."

"It's easier to convince foreign companies to come, then go to the Bahrainis and ask them to take part in a joint venture... they feel more secure because the technical and marketing expertise is already there."

Industry officials said Bahrain's attractiveness to foreign investors included easy access to other Gulf markets, no taxes, and no customs duties on imports of raw materials or exports to other countries in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman under an economic and defence pact.

The government is offering support through subsidised joint market-feasibility studies and introductions to local partners.

"It's considering plans to build ready-made factories for firms to move into and to set up an industrial development bank to provide long term loans for investors."

Ways of slashing electricity costs to give local industries a competitive edge are also being considered.

But the UAE's booming 100-square-kilometre free zone in the southern Gulf has similar attractions and one which Bahraini law does not permit — 100 per cent ownership by foreign firms.

In a bid to compete, Bahrain has said it is willing to circumvent its 51 per cent local ownership law and give foreign firms a majority or even 100 per cent stake in projects.

Officials said this would only be done in exceptional circumstances which would have strategic benefit for the island.

"Our primary aim is to create projects which will create jobs for Bahrainis in a joint-venture context," one said.

"In cases where a 100 per cent foreign-owned company is using imported raw materials and labour the amount of benefit to the economy is marginal."

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A columnist in Al Ra'i daily discusses the wisdom behind a government decision to ban imports of lean meat and replace it with frozen meat. Salah Abdul Samad says that locally produced lean meat is in short supply in Jordan and that was the reason behind the government's importation of this basic commodity. Meat is not part of the luxury goods which had been banned or on which the government imposed heavy taxes; and a ban on meat imports would certainly harm limited-income families who clearly cannot purchase the expensive local meat, the writer points out. Jordanians, he adds, understand that alcohol, cigarettes and scent could be considered as luxury goods, but they regard meat as essential and should be provided in sufficient fresh quantities if it is to be wholesome and healthy. Abdul Samad adds. He expresses hope that the concerned authorities will re-examine their decision about a ban on imports of lean meat and to impose such bans on other luxury commodities on which no heavy tax has yet been imposed.

Al Dustour daily described King Hussein's talks with President Mitterrand as one important link in a long chain of the monarch's endeavours abroad to help the Palestinians regain their rights and their homeland. The talks assume added significance since they come in the wake of important developments in the Palestine problem at a time when the occupied Arab territories witness an escalation of resistance in the face of Israel's repression, the paper noted. It said that the King pursues his efforts with leaders of the West and the East, and continues to enlist the help of all nations for the sake of saving the Palestinians from further sufferings and for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.



Jordan's population expected  
at 4.26 million in 2000

## 'Population clock' ticking fast

By Rania Atalla  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On November 24 last year, and at the start of the 8:00 p.m. news bulletin, Jordan Television displayed a "population clock" which read the number of people in the world as 5,030,257,300 and the number of people in Jordan as 3,864,938 (in both the East and West Banks). By the end of the bulletin, approximately one hour later, the world population had increased by 6000, and to the Jordanian population were added 11 more human beings.

One year later, on November 24 of this year, the figures had increased even more dramatically. The world population, according to the same "population clock," was 5,112,565,360 and that of Jordan 4,024,308 — an increase of approximately 82 million people in the world and 160,000 in Jordan (both banks) over the span of a year.

If you think those figures are, or should be, alarming, get this: whereas last year the population of Jordan increased at a rate of 11 people per hour, now, one year later, the rate of increase has more than doubled — more than 25 people are added to the population of Jordan every hour.

"This is the actual increase in population," said director of JTV news programmes Ibrahim Shahzadah. "The calculation of those figures takes into consideration the death rate in both the rural and urban areas. In effect, those figures reflect the actual net increase."

The "population counter" was offered by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) as a gift to His Majesty King Hussein. It was then made available to JTV,

and as Shahzadah admits, looking at the clock can be not only mind boggling but mind boggling.

According to Roushdi Al Henedi of the UNPF's New York office, similar clocks were given to 159 heads of states, in some cases to be used as an ornament and in other cases to "frighten" the leaders by the large numbers displayed.

Henedi said the clock is basically a microcomputer programmed to update itself every 60 seconds, reading the increase in the population of the world and the country for which it is programmed. The countries' rate of growth on which the clocks are programmed, Henedi said, are those reported by the governments themselves.

The Department of Statistics (DOS) remains the official source of population statistics for Jordan. The DOS official population estimate for the East Bank of Jordan for 1986 is 2.67 million. According to the DOS, the figure represents the 1986 estimate of the population based on the latest census figures taken in 1979.

It was arrived at using approximately a 3.8 per cent rate of growth per annum on the average. The figure includes Jordanians who were in the country at the time the census was conducted in addition to those who were out of the country temporarily for purposes of tourism, study or medical treatment. As for Jordanian expatriates, the census excludes those who had been away for more than six months while the census was being conducted unless they had family members present in Jordan at the time to provide information about them.

According to Fouzi Sahawneh, chairman of the population studies department at the University of Jordan, the natural rate of increase is usually arrived at by deducting the death rate from the birth rate. U.N. figures for Jordan for 1985 cite the average birth rate at 45 per 1000, and the average death rate at 8 per 1000. Deducting 8 from 45 puts the natural rate of increase at 37 per 1000 or 3.7 per cent.

The U.N. estimate for both banks of Jordan for 1985 is 3.5 million people. For 1987, the Population Reference Bureau figures indicate that the population on both banks amounted to 3.7 million.

According to PRB forecasts, in the year 2000, the East and West Banks of Jordan will have 5.7 million people (excluding the Gaza Strip). That figure is expected to rise to 9.6 million in 2200. In the East Bank of Jordan alone the population forecast for 1990 is 3.9 million, and 4.26 million for the year 2000.

According to Henedi, July 11, 1987 was chosen by the U.N. as a day of both celebration and contemplation — celebration because the world population had reached five billion, overcoming diseases and having registered considerable improvements in infant mortality rates and health services. But it was a day of contemplation because the world population is increasing at a very high rate and is expected to reach six billion by the turn of the century. Seventy per cent of that increase is expected to occur in developing countries, Henedi said. "The situation will require proper planning to receive an additional billion people," he concluded.

## Paradise Lost

By Sharon Herbaugh  
The Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Arab traders called the Ceylon of antiquity "serendib" — a place of pleasant surprises. Marco Polo marvelled at the fist-sized gems that symbolised its wealth.

Today, the Indian Ocean island, once likened to paradise by the poets and coveted by the superpowers for its deepwater ports, is a battleground of sectarian conflict between members of two of the world's most traditionally tolerant religions: Hinduism and Buddhism.

On both sides, the attacks are often cruel and vengeful, leading to a spiral of retribution. Some believe they now jeopardising plans for presidential elections Dec. 19.

Militants of the Tamil ethnic minority, who are Hindus, have been pressing their demand for an independent state through brutal attacks on members of the Buddhist Sinhalese majority. In the past year, they have also turned their guns and swords on the previously unthreatened Muslim community. The Muslims, who live in areas the Tamils want to make part of their independent entity, favour continued union with the rest of Sri Lanka, the modern-day name of Ceylon.

Sinhalese militants, infuriated at the government's efforts to make peace with the Tamils, are waging their own campaign of terror and intimidation.

Throughout the capital and across the island, soldiers armed with unprecedented power are struggling to maintain order.

"A dark veil of anarchy and bloodshed has descended on our country," former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the presidential candidate of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, said in an interview. "Sri Lankans have the right to wonder whether there is any government at all."

Opposition parties, the powerful Buddhist clergy and human rights and labour organisations have repeatedly urged the establishment of a caretaker government in advance of the elections, saying it would help defuse the crisis on an island once considered a model of economic progress and stability in developing countries.

But with less than two weeks left in office, President Junius R. Jayewardene, who is ineligible to run for re-election, has resisted calls to step aside. He says he will dissolve parliament and then step down only when his successor is chosen.

Some senior government officials have suggested that Jayewardene consider cancelling the election because of the current violence. But Prime Minister Ramasinghe Premadasa, himself a presidential candidate, strongly

opposes such a move, and other candidates in public speeches have urged Sinhalese extremists not to create a situation that would give Jayewardene an excuse to cancel the balloting.

### 2,500 year battle

The Sinhalese and Tamils, both descendants of migrants from India, have been battling each other for more than 2,500 years.

Their current clashes, however, date from 1983, when the Tamils exploded their campaign for a separate homeland in the north and east into a guerrilla war, contending the Sinhalese had rejected their language, denied them jobs and given them too little money for education and development.

Nearly 10,000 people have died in the fighting, more than 500,000 have been routed from their homes and the economy, once buoyed by a booming tourist industry, is in ruins.

With the help of neighbouring India, the regional power in South Asia and home of 60 million Tamils, the government signed a peace accord in July 1987 aimed at ending the Tamil insurgency.

The pact guaranteed some autonomy to the Tamils and, for the first time, publicly stated that the Sinhalese-dominated government was willing to share power with Tamil representatives on local issues. It also invited India to send troops to Sri Lanka to end the war and supervise the accord.

Jayewardene took political risks when he accepted the accord, angering opposition politicians, religious leaders and even some members of his cabinet. Many Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the island's 16 million people, said the government had sold out to the Tamils, who comprise 18 per cent of the population.

Most militant Tamils rejected the accord, too, saying it didn't meet enough of their demands for self-rule.

Indian troops soon were fighting the very Tamils they were sent to protect. More than 625 Indian soldiers have died in the fighting that has become known as "India's Afghanistan."

The People's Liberation Front, a shadowy Sinhalese group forced underground after a 1971 attempted coup, emerged and vowed to kill anyone who supported the accord.

The front, better known for its violent acts than its Marxist ideology, within 16 months had been blamed for more than 900 political murders and for nearly succeeding in assassinating Jayewardene in a daring grenade attack in parliament.

Only one of the three presidential candidates, Ossie Abeygunasekera of the United Socialist

Alliance, has dared to openly criticise the front. Following his criticism, Sinhalese militants twice hurled bombs into his campaign rallies, killing eight people and injuring more than 150.

Neither Mrs. Bandaranaike of the Freedom Party nor Prime Minister Premadasa, the candidate of the ruling United National Party, has yet indicated a plan for tackling the front if elected.

### Quit or die

Each has steered clear of criticising the front in an apparent bid to buy peace. The front, however, has turned its guns on them, and both have cancelled some campaign rallies because of threats.

When the front demanded that all Freedom Party office holders in the south, the Sinhalese heartland, either quit or be killed, a number obeyed and prominently displayed their resignation letters outside their homes.

In a rare interview recently with the Sunday Times newspaper from an undisclosed location, front leader Rohana Wijeweera said: "The task of creating a new era to solve the country's problems, of providing a new leadership, of building a new nation is in our hands."

Last month, in its most daring effort yet to destabilise the government, the front told government and other employees to stay away from work or be killed.

Shops, banks and post offices closed their doors, and trains sat idle in the rail yards. Troops drove public buses, manned ports and operated gasoline stations.

Jayewardene responded to the onslaught by arming the military with unprecedented powers, including the right to shoot anyone participating in anti-government demonstrations, and decreeing death by hanging for anyone instigating protests or writing, printing, distributing or displaying threatening posters.

To counter threats to workers, authorities declared employees who failed to report for work at all essential services would be dismissed. Most refused despite the warning, apparently believing it was safer to disobey the government than risk the militants' wrath.

The threats, however, have spawned hit squads that authorities say killed at least 25 suspected Sinhalese militants this month. Most have gathered beneath the mantle of the People's Revolutionary Red Army, believed to be comprised of paramilitary forces and members of the United Socialist Alliance, a union of four leftist parties.

Posters showing grisly photographs of the front's victims and commanding "Kill Wijeweera" have been plastered throughout the capital. They are signed PRFR.



Children, learning their lessons on life in the streets of Gaza

## Bitter lessons for children in Palestine

By Elana Dallas

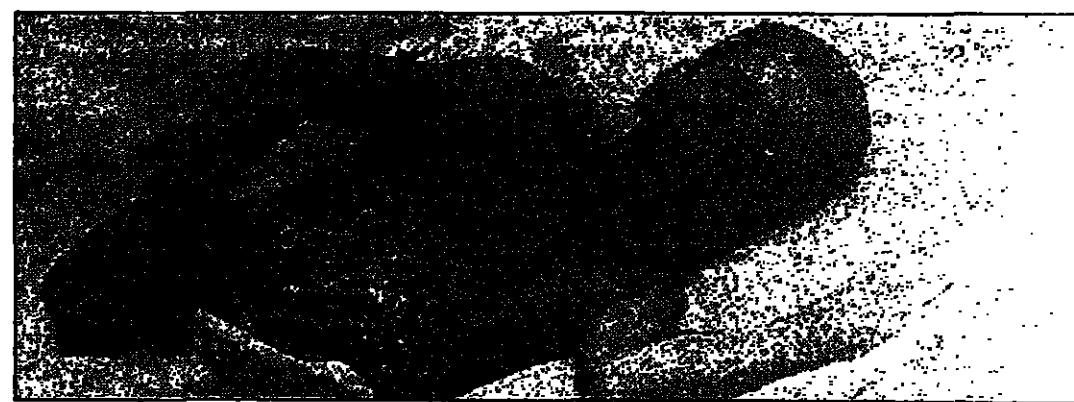
THE STREETS are full of noise, but the schools are silent. One year ago this week, Palestinians began an uprising against the Israelis who occupy the territories where they live. Since then, more than 300 Palestinians and several Israelis have been killed. Among the victims on both sides of this conflict have been children and young people. Bullets, tear-gas and beatings have become part of daily life for the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza.

They are not unused to fighting: many fled here after losing homes and livelihoods in the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict. Since 1967 both the West Bank and Gaza have been occupied by Israel. One casualty since the uprising

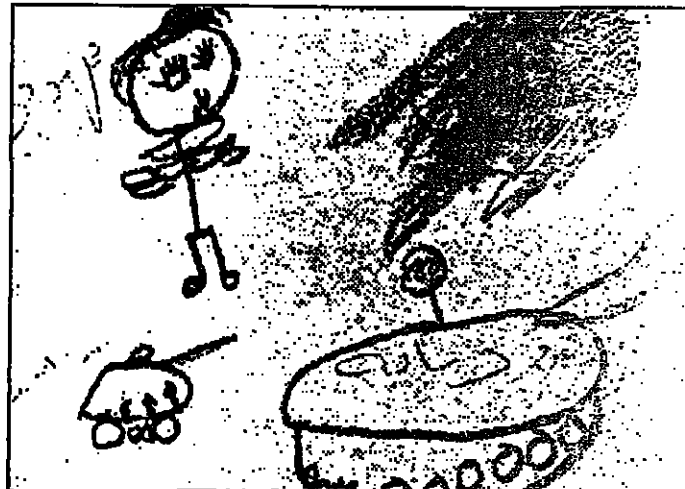
— little noticed abroad in the drama of the violence — is their education. All schools, colleges and universities in the Israeli-occupied West Bank are closed by order of the military commander. They have been shut for at least nine months of the past year, starting in early February. Some schools were allowed to re-open for a few weeks in late May, but in July they were all again ordered to close. Their corridors and classrooms still stand silent.

Attempts by pupils and their parents to return to school were soon broken up. "We couldn't risk exposing our children to tear-gas when the army arrived," explains the mother of a seven-year-old girl. At least 20 children have been suffocated to death by tear-

gas since the uprising began. For the West Bank's 300,000 schoolchildren, classes are rapidly becoming a dim memory. What



Mohammed from Jabaliya, shows the wounds he received as a result of hot water burns that were inflicted on him by Israeli soldiers



A Palestinian child's drawing, shows how the conflict has left its mark on his young mind

effect this disruption will have on their futures, no one knows. Teachers and parents are particularly worried about the very young. "There are certain critical periods in a child's life where you begin to learn skills such as reading and writing," says one headmaster. "I don't want to see our kids going back to illiteracy and playing with garbage on the streets."

"My youngest daughter used to love school, now she sits at home all day and plays cards," worries a mother. "She says her only regret is that she ever went to school at all because it was such a waste of time."

### Academic discouragement

For older students, the postponement of plans and the uncertainty have discouraged ambition. So has the knowledge that centres of higher education have suffered even more than the schools. Universities, training colleges and higher education institutions have been closed since January, not only in the West Bank but also in Gaza. Their 18,000 students have effectively lost the 1987-88 academic year.

The university is no stranger to its position in one phrase: "Education is forbidden."

The university is no stranger to shut-downs; it was closed by the Israeli military authorities 14 times between 1973 and 1987. But this is the first time it has been closed indefinitely.

Graduating students are particularly hard hit, since many have plans for employment or post-graduate study that depend on receiving a degree. The university's vice-president declares defiantly: "Birzeit University is functioning wherever its faculty and students meet to carry out

the academic, intellectual and community mission of our institution."

But the Israeli authorities do not allow attempts to organise study outside the classroom. Palestinians are not even allowed to teach their children in their own homes. Schools have been told that giving worksheets in primary and secondary education for home study will not be tolerated.

These are no idle threats. Teachers caught giving worksheets to secondary school students have been arrested, fined and — and so have their pupils. The Israeli authorities fear the educational closures on Gaza grounds. They say the schools and universities are "centres of violent protest," and that when the violence stops the schools will reopen.

According to Dr. Elana Ashwan, dean of the Arts Faculty at Birzeit, there has been no pressure within Israel to reopen the schools. However, there was a public uproar when schools in Israel were closed recently for one day because of a teacher's strike. With mounting understatement, she says this is "symptomatic of deep-seated fears."

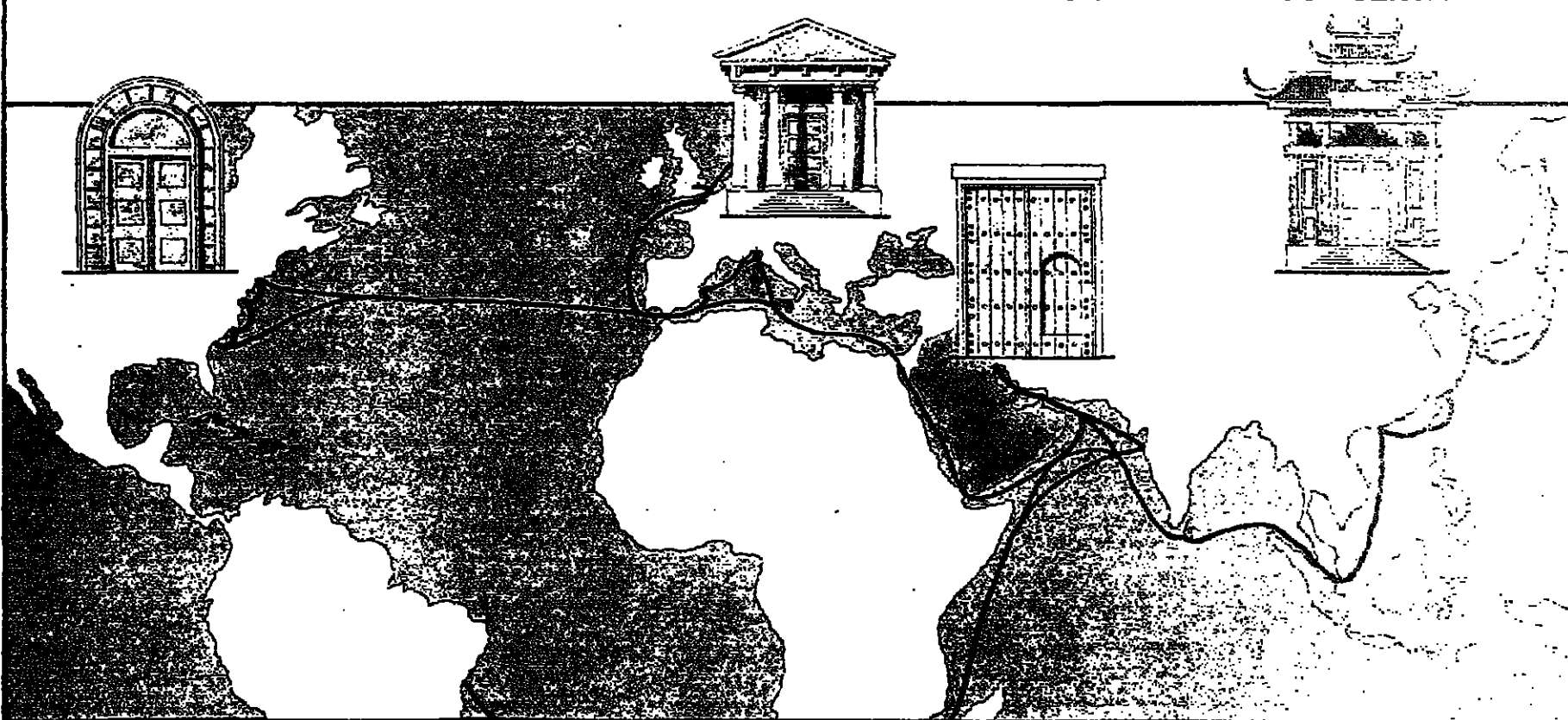
The United Nations is providing food, medical care and education to Palestinian refugees, said recently: "Security considerations have been invoked to justify the closure of educational institutions, but the major consequence is that a generation of Palestinian children... are denied to exercise their basic right to education."

Elana Dallas works for the educational charity World University Service.

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# Tunis unveils \$3,663m budget

**TUNIS (R)** — Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche unveiled an 1989 budget for Tunisia Monday designed to boost economic growth, reduce the country's balance of payments deficit and balance state spending.

Baccouche told parliament it was intended to spark growth of 5.5 per cent in gross domestic product (GDP) next year against only 0.9 per cent in 1988.

One of the major factors behind the planned increase is a predicted surge in agricultural output of 14 per cent after a big drop of 25 per cent in 1988 due to drought and a locust plague.

Tunisia turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank for help in 1986 after dwindling oil reserves left it with a severe cash shortage. It adopted a liberalisation programme which led to economic growth in 1987 of 5.8 per cent.

The new budget foresaw in-

creases in investment and exports, particularly tourism which earned record receipts last year of one billion dinars (\$1.1 billion). Investment next year is expected to reach 21.8 per cent of GDP, with private investors accounting for at least half that figure. The figure for 1988 was not given.

The total budget is 11 per cent up on 1988 at 3,350 million dinars (\$3,663 million). Exports overall are expected to increase by 11.6 per cent at constant prices after an exceptional leap of 14.2 per cent in 1988, Baccouche said.

Imports, meanwhile, are expected to increase by 14 per cent — one per cent down on 1988.

Baccouche said import controls would be gradually dismantled through the year in line with the IMF-World Bank sponsored programme.

The prime minister said taxes would not be increased and an expected budget deficit would be met by loans of around 700 million dinars (\$770 million) — half of which would be raised on the domestic market.

Baccouche said the deficit on the balance of payments would be confined to about 285 million dinars (\$316 million) compared to the 1988 deficit of 200 million dinars (\$220 million).

That would represent some 2.9 per cent of GDP against 2.3 per cent in 1988, he added.

Official documents said such a deficit "would appear to pose no particular problem" given the amount of long-term bonds and loans already lined up.

External debt is expected to fall to 56.6 per cent of GDP at the end of 1988 compared to 60.1 per cent at the end of this year.

Meanwhile, Baccouche said, servicing of public debt should stabilise at around 24 per cent of receipts of balance of payments current account against 28 per cent in 1986.

In terms of size of loan per capita, Tunisia tops the World Bank chart for Arab-African nations.

However, Baccouche said the structure of the debt had improved considerably in recent years and much of the 5.4 billion dinars (\$6 billion) was now long-term.

This would allow the debt-servicing ratio to continue to fall in coming years. Interest on the debt for the year would increase to 395 million dinars (\$438 million) compared to 355 million (\$395 million) in 1988.

## Democratic stability hinges on debts

**RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (R)** — Seven Latin American nations ended a meeting here Monday with a call for urgent cuts in the region's \$435 billion debt.

"It is a threat to the stability of the democracies," Brazilian Finance Minister Maitson Nobrega said of the debt at a news conference after the two-day talks were over.

He said there was a consensus among the seven — Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela — that urgent moves were needed to ease the debt burden.

The ministers have drawn up proposals on debt reduction which will now be considered by the countries' presidents.

Nobrega gave no details of the proposals but took pains at the news conference to stress that the debtor nations would not take unilateral measures and were not seeking confrontation.

He said there would be "nothing spectacular, nothing surprising" in the Latin American proposals.

But he also highlighted how times had changed since the debt crisis first broke in 1982.

"I think that if in 1982 a group of Latin American countries had met to discuss debt reduction this would have been regarded as a heresy," he said.

A statement said the ministers agreed "that the reduction of the transfer of resources abroad is

indispensable for the adequate execution of economic policy, as well as for a resumption of sustained growth."

Over the past five years Latin America has transferred more than \$100 billion to creditor countries.

"They agreed that reducing the debt — the principal and the servicing — is the most appropriate instrument for the reduction of the transfer of resources," the statement added.

It said the introduction of measures to cut the debt was a matter of urgency.

Peruvian Finance Minister Carlos Rivas d'Avila told reporters that the heads of state would define their positions before Dec.

19 and send their views to President Jose Sarney of Brazil by that date.

Rivas d'Avila said that the presidents, after taking their decision on the debt, could seek a summit meeting with the heads of government of the main creditor nations.

Brazil alone is due to depend \$14.5 billion this year on debt servicing and is experiencing a serious economic crisis. Most of its population of 145 million live in poverty.

Nobrega said one of the themes at the meeting was the \$12 billion debt owed within the region. He said the intention was to set up mechanisms for consultations between Latin American creditors and debtors to reduce the debt.

## Economists predict Bush-Fed collision

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Economists are predicting that the Federal Reserve (Fed) is charting a collision course with President-elect George Bush by planning to force interest rates higher.

The analysts speculate that the nation's central bank wants to force interest rates higher to put the brakes on the country's economic expansion, which has reached the point where it may be powering an inflationary spiral.

But Bush, who takes office Jan. 20, is counting on strong economic growth and falling interest rates to help it trim the

federal deficit without resorting to new taxes.

Many economists believe the Federal Reserve has already started tightening credit conditions and they expect further efforts along that line when Federal Reserve policy-makers meet behind closed doors Tuesday and Wednesday to review the performance of the economy and make revisions to monetary strategy.

The Federal Open Market Committee, headed by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, meets eight times a year to

set guidelines for monetary policy consistent with the bank's job of promoting non-inflationary growth.

While the economy is now in its seventh year of expansion without a downturn, bank officials have expressed concerns that tight labour markets and high factory operating rates could spur a new inflationary spiral.

Recent signs of economic strength, including a strong unemployment report for November, have many analysts convinced that policymakers believe the economy may be overheating.

The Fed (the bank) clearly should tighten," said Michael Evans, head of a Washington consulting firm bearing his name. "The economy is strong and all sorts of inflationary signs are cropping up."

Many analysts say they have detected signs that the bank is tightening credit behind the scenes. They note that the federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other for overnight loans, has been rising. It averaged 8.59 per cent last week, the highest weekly average in two years and up from 8.44 per cent the week before.

## Nabulsi warns of Arab social unrest

**ABU DHABI (R)** — Economic recession and declining oil revenues may lead to social problems in Arab countries, a U.N. expert on the region said. "I am not optimistic over future economic circumstances and this makes me concerned that they could cause social problems," said Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission on West Asia. Nabulsi told reporters that foreign debt, declining oil revenue and rising defence spending were major obstacles to growth in the Arab World. Arab oil revenues dropped to less than \$75 billion in 1987 from around \$216 billion in 1980, while foreign debt soared to \$200 billion from \$60 billion in the same period, Nabulsi said. He said the halt to fighting in the Iran-Iraq war would greatly help Arab economies but countries in the region were still spending large sums on defence.

## Iran cuts price of Persian carpets

**NICOSIA (R)** — Iran has cut the price of new Iranian hand-woven carpets by 30 per cent in an attempt to increase exports and cut down on smuggling, Tehran television reported. The television, monitored in Nicosia, said the decision was taken by an official committee which sets the price of exports. A customs report in November said Iran's exports of non-oil goods, including carpets, fell by a quarter to \$399 million in the first half of the Iranian year beginning March 21 compared with the same period in 1987.

## Britons worry over strong pound

**LONDON (R)** — The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) employers' group painted its most gloomy outlook for 20 months in its December survey of industrial trends, released Monday. Around 28 per cent of the 1,104 firms surveyed said export order books were below normal, with 23 per cent reporting above-normal exports. "The weakening of export order books emphasises the difficulty of selling overseas as the pound has strengthened," said David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's Economic Situation Committee. "As the CBI has warned repeatedly since the spring, the prospects for reducing the trade deficit in the near term will not improve if sterling remains uncompetitively strong," he noted. The CBI forecast that industrial output would grow strongly over the next four months. This may worry the treasury (finance ministry), which is looking for slower growth to help reduce inflation.

## Emirates buys 3 European Airlines

**DUBAI (R)** — Emirates airlines said Monday it had bought three airlines from European aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie for \$330 million. Sheikh Ahmad Ibn Saeed Al Maktoum, chairman of the Dubai airline, told reporters the three wide-bodied A300-600RS would be used to extend services to the Far East and Europe. He said two of the planes would be delivered in 1990 and the third in 1991. The deal included spares and extra engines.

## New Iraqi oil projects to cost \$5.4b

**BAGHDAD (OPECNA)** — Oil projects worth \$5.4 billion are currently under construction in different parts of Iraq, according to

Ali Al Nouri, director-general of the Iraqi oil projects company (SCOP). The projects, he told the English daily "Baghdad Observer," included the development of oilfields, gas processing units, oil transportation schemes and the building of the second stage of a strategic oil pipeline across Saudi Arabia. Al Nouri pointed out that his company had recently implemented 39 oil projects at a cost of \$750 million, including 3,000 kilometres of pipelines in various parts of the country for oil and gas distribution and 200 oil storage depots with a combined capacity of two million and a cubic metres. He said SCOP had succeeded in reducing costs at a number of major oil projects by assuming the contracting functions itself. From 1981 to 1985, he added, the company had built 30 major oil projects at a cost of nearly \$2.40 billion. SCOP is an affiliate of the Iraqi ministry of oil.

## Egypt expects \$1.31b from Suez Canal

**CAIRO (R)** — Egypt expects to earn a record \$1.31 billion from Suez Canal revenues this year, Canal Authority Chairman Ezzat Adel told the Middle East News Agency the canal's forecast earnings would be double the figure for 1980. The figure is seven per cent higher than revenue for calendar 1987. Annual revenue from oil, Egypt's main export commodity, is expected to have fallen because of fluctuating world prices this year. No figures have been published, but experts also believe Egypt's biggest source of hard currency, remittances from expatriate workers in Gulf Arab states, will have suffered because of project cutbacks due to the oil slump.

## Turkish Airlines plans Tokyo flights

**ANKARA (R)** — Turkish Airlines (THY), the state-run national carrier, plans to start regular flights to Tokyo next June, a senior transport ministry official has said. "A bridge will be established between Japan and Turkey. We have found that there is a big potential for tourists from Japan," ministry undersecretary Ertan Yulek told reporters. The airline, a possible candidate for Turkey's privatisation programme, now flies to nearly 50 destinations. It added New York, Helsinki, Basle and Oslo to its routes this year.

## Kuwait to order four new oil tankers

**KUWAIT (R)** — The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) plans to order four new oil tankers including two supertankers early next year, a source close to the company has said. KOTC expanded its fleet to 23 in September when it took delivery of a 35,000-tonne refined products carrier, the first of six to be custom-built by a South Korean shipyard. The source said KOTC had decided to order two refined product carriers of 120,000 tonnes capacity and two supertankers, probably very large product carriers.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday Dec. 13, 1988		Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.9 383.8
U.S. dollar	470.0 472.0	Dutch guilder	238.7 239.8
Pound Sterling	862.1 866.5	Swedish crown	77.7 78.1
Deutschemark	269.5 270.8	Italian lira (for 100)	36.6 36.8
Swiss franc	320.4 322.0	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.7 129.3
French franc	78.9 79.3		

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8305/15	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1909/12	Canadian dollar	
	1.7430/40	Deutschemark	
	1.9675/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.4670/80	Swiss francs	
	36.52/55	Belgian francs	
	5.9550/600	French francs	
	1284/1285	Italian lire	
	123.12/22	Japanese yen	
	6.0460/510	Swedish crowns	
	6.4690/740	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7260/310	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	420.05/420.55	U.S. dollars	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**SYDNEY** — A tumble in the gold price and falls in overseas share markets prolonged a recent slide on Australian share markets. At the end of floor trading, the All Ordinaries Index had fallen 11.8 points to 1,457.6.

**TOKYO** — Share prices ended a directionless session lower, with investors awaiting U.S. trade data Wednesday and concerned over Emperor Hirohito's health. The Nikkei Index lost 74.48 points, or 0.25 per cent, to 29,597.81.

**HONG KONG** — Stocks drifted lower in dull featureless trade in the absence of news or much activity from foreign fund managers. The Hang Seng Index closed at 2,651.92, down 14.02.

**SINGAPORE** — Widespread gains posted by hotel stocks enlivened an otherwise dull and featureless market. The Straits Times Industrial Index managed a 1.11 point gain to 1,002.51.

**BOMBAY** — Share prices fell sharply after a firm start. Brokers said selling pressure was triggered by reports that Tata Steel planned to issue convertible debentures. The Scrip fell 26.25 rupees to 1,037.5.

**FRANKFURT** — Shares closed off the day's lows in trade kept sluggish by uncertainty over this week's crop of U.S. economic data and Bundesbank deliberations on monetary policy. The Dax Index closed down 2.06 at 1,290.63.

**ZURICH** — Prices closed lower in line with other markets. The Swiss Index fell 5.3 to 926.9.

**PARIS** — Prices ended easier in very thin trading, with many buyers nervous that West Germany may raise its Lombard rate on Thursday.

**LONDON** — Shares were mixed in late afternoon but with a firmer bias after an erratic session that opened lower, rallied on weaker sterling and then drifted down after release of U.S. retail sales figures for November. At 1551 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 3.3 at 1,751.2.

**NEW YORK** — Prices stayed slightly lower in light mid-morning trading as the market recovered from a fall triggered by the sales data. The dow was down five at 2,135.

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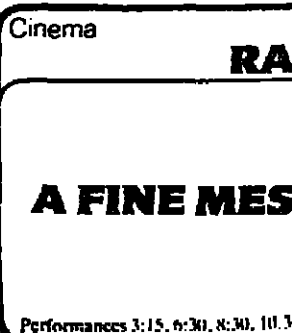
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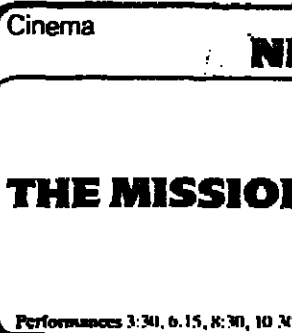
Samia Sharawi's  
File  
(Arabic)

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



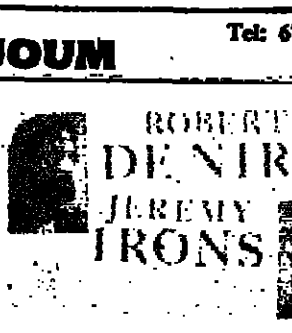
A FINE MESS

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30



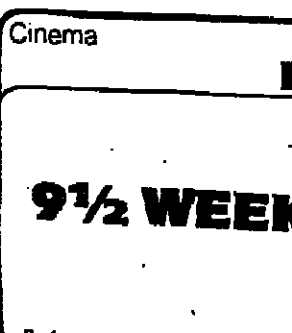
THE MISSION

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30



ROBERT DE NIRO  
JEREMY IRONS

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30



9 1/2 WEEKS

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## W. German play benefit game

BREMEN (AP) — West German soccer champion Werder Bremen plans to play a benefit game in Yerevan to raise money for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Armenia, the club said Tuesday. The game against Ararat Yerevan, the Armenian soccer club, is tentatively planned for some time between Jan. 9 and Jan. 17. Gate earnings will be used to help the victims of the quake, the club said.

## Molnare gives up title

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian world welterweight boxing champion Tomas Molnare said Monday he was giving up his World Boxing Association (WBA) title because of weight problems. He said in an interview with the newspaper El Tiempo he would fight in the future in the junior middleweight division. Molnare, who won the title by beating American Marlon Starling in Atlantic City last July, was to have defended it in Las Vegas in February against another American, number one contender Mark Breland. But he has abandoned training for the contest.

## Karpov leads in chess tournament

MEXICO (AP) — Former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union and Americans Maxim Dlugy and Lev Alburt were tied after four rounds of the first world speed chess championship. Another 12 international grand masters tied for fourth place when round concluded Sunday. Rafael Vaganian, Victor Gavrikov, Maya Chiburdanidze, Igor Novikov, Mikhail Krasenkov and Gennadi Kuzmin of the Soviet Union, Ulf Adianto of Indonesia, Istvan Csom and Andras Adorjan of Hungary, Roman Dzindzichashvili and Kamran Shirazi of the United States and Ruben Rodriguez of the Philippines all ended with three points apiece.

## Blanchard retains IBF European title

HELSINKI (R) — Alex Blanchard of The Netherlands retained the International Boxing Federation (IBF) European continental super middleweight title when he fought to a draw with Tarmo Uusivirta of Finland Monday night.

## Spanish soccer players join strike

MADRID (R) — Spanish soccer matches set for Wednesday will be postponed following a decision by players to join a general strike that day, the football league said Monday. The Soccer Players' Association (AFE) decided to support the strike, called by Spain's leading trade union groups, the General Workers' Union and Workers' Commissions, to press for a complete change in the socialist government's economic policy.

## Tottenham sign Norwegian goalkeeper

GOTHENBURG (R) — IFK Gothenburg's Norwegian international goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt agreed to join English First Division club Tottenham Monday night. Announcing the deal, Gothenburg chairman Gunnar Larsson said: "Terry Venables (the Tottenham manager) went back to England with a contract which has only to be approved by his board to be binding." Larsson declined to give financial details of the transfer. Thorstvedt, 26, has been capped 51 times.

## Chess players plan N.Y. wedding

WASHINGTON (AP) — The captain of the U.S. men's chess team and his bride, a top-ranked Soviet player, say they are planning a second wedding next in New York. In a telephone interview Monday, John Donaldson and Elena Akhmedovskaya also say they hoped her 7-year-old daughter, Dana would be allowed to rejoin her mother in time for the ceremony. Donaldson said he hoped the Soviet authorities would not deny the girl a visa in retaliation for the women's team finishing second to arch-rival Hungary in the biennial Olympiad in Salonika, Greece.

## F-1 engine put through paces

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy (R) — French racing car driver Philippe Alliot put Lamborghini's new Formula One engine through its paces for the first time Tuesday amid tight security on a track in north east Italy. Industry sources said the 12 cylinder, 3,500 cc engine, built into a Larousse team Lola car, did about 50 laps of the Santamonica circuit at Misano and that further tests and adjustments were expected in the next few days. Lola booked the circuit and refused entry to anyone not strictly involved in the project. The engine was designed and developed by Italian engineer Mauro Forghieri, who was hired by Lamborghini in May 1987 after 27 years with Ferrari. Lamborghini, which was acquired in early 1987 by U.S. auto giant Chrysler, hopes the new engine will be ready for competition for the March 26 opening of the 1989 Formula One season in Rio De Janeiro.

## Bruno to meet Tyson

LONDON (AP) — British heavyweight boxer Frank Bruno flies to Los Angeles Wednesday for a face-to-face meeting with World Champion Mike Tyson, hoping their next encounter will be in the ring in Las Vegas Feb. 25.

Following a series of postponements, Bruno and his backers want to sit down with the champion and his team to nail down a definite date for the on-off fight. Jarvis Astaire, co-owner of London's Wembley Stadium which was the original venue for the fight, will be at Bruno's side for the meeting which also will involve Tyson's manager, Bill Cayton, and a lawyer.

Astaire, who has been negotiating the contest since Bruno's last fight in 14 months ago, said on the eve of departure: "I feel more optimistic than I have for months."

Cayton, who is engaged in a contractual wrangle involving Tyson and promoter Don King, said last week the signs were that the contest would finally go ahead at the Las Vegas Hilton in late February. Tyson, 22, has not fought since he demolished Michael Spinks in one round in June.

## FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1988

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Intuition is active, and insight is original. This favors working on projects today that require inventive ideas. There is a tendency to indulge, break diets and overindulge. Curb your appetite to do so.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19)** A fresh approach will help to ease boredom. Restless energy affects your ability to concentrate. Some of this is due to a lack of sleep.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20)** An appreciation of color and nature, along with an ear for music, highlights the day. Take advantage of creative talent in these areas.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)** You have the ability to make money, but the outflow exceeds budget requirements. Keep desires in check, and raise your income.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21)** Let your talents show, and plan for youthful adventure. Invest in a variety of activities in which you can indulge during free time.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21)** Review money matters. Join hands with another who can help your career progress. Loving people can help make this evening glow.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22)** Basic plans surrounding needs come up for review. Your positive mood and good sense set you on a lucky course for the future.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** The love of another takes a serious turn. Relaxed enjoyment with that special someone will glow red hot with a little love.

**SORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)** You don't need to struggle as hard as you have been. Relax into a quiet time. Your free time can be pleasant, dreamy and sensual.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)** Prosperous connections may be hidden, but be prepared for a change. Don't fret over temporary setbacks. Your situation improves.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)** Unique ideas, communication and inventive talents rise to consciousness. Where to apply these talents is the question.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)** Dedicated efforts to restrain spending get results. Let your talents develop. Love connections may highlight the evening.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)** When you try, magic things happen. Focus on your creativity in a practical way. Look for ways to form your talents into a career.

## Tyson won't fight?

NEW YORK (AP) — Robin Givens, the estranged wife of Mike Tyson, says the heavyweight boxing champion has ballooned to 115 kilograms and wasn't planning to fight Britain's Frank Bruno, despite continuing negotiations for the repeatedly postponed fight.

In the Dec. 19 issue of People Magazine, Givens says Tyson told her in a recent late-night phone call that "he was up to 255 pounds. He said, 'I'm not going to fight anymore. I'm going to spend all my money, all my time, all my energy fighting you.' I told him that he has no fight with me."

Givens, an actress, and Tyson have sued each other for divorce. Givens has also filed a \$125 million libel suit against Tyson after he accused her and her mother, Ruth Roper, of trying to steal his money and called him "the slime of the slime" in a newspaper interview.

But Givens told people: "I have no interest in the money. None. It will all go to charity."

She said the entire saga was "so unfortunate."

"I think he's complicated, but I think there's something about him that's just wonderful, you know?" she said.

"And I think he's probably going to turn out to be the all-American tragedy," she continued. "There's something about Michael that's dangerous. As we all know, that's part of the attraction."

## Jenkins sentenced to 7 yrs. for role in steroid smuggling

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Former British track star David Jenkins Monday was sentenced to seven years in federal prison and fined \$75,000 for his role in an international steroid-smuggling ring.

Jenkins, 36, a member of Britain's Olympic silver-medal winning 400-metre relay team in 1972, was ordered into custody immediately after U.S. district attorney J. Lawrence Irving pronounced sentence.

Jenkins, of Del Mar, California, had faced up to 16 years

and a \$1 million fine after pleading guilty Nov. 6, 1987, to four counts stemming from operation of the ring that prosecutors said at one time dominated the U.S. black market for the muscle-enhancing drug.

The charges were defrauding the United States, holding

counterfeit steroids for sale, introducing misbranded steroids into interstate commerce and receiving anabolic steroids subject to seizure.

Thirty-two other counts against Jenkins were dropped in exchange for the plea agreement.

Prior to sentencing, Jenkins said he was sorry.

"I apologise to the court and the government for my actions. It was misguided, foolish, and as such I take responsibility for my actions."

## S. Arabia defeats China in Asian football games

DOHA (R) — Saudi Arabia beat China by a solitary goal in the ninth Asian Football Cup Tournament in Qatar Monday to earn a semi-final match against Iran.

Both teams had already qualified for the semi-finals from group B and the only issue in doubt was which side would have to play the on-form South Ko-

reans, who topped group A. The usually aggressive Chinese concentrated on defence for most of the game in the hope of achieving a goalless draw and avoiding having to face South Korea.

Saudi Arabia, the cup holders, did not achieve their breakthrough until the 56th minute. Several chances had been squandered by striker Majed Abdullah but it was from one of his forays into the Chinese penalty area that the goal came.

Fahd Mosaibeh sent an in-perfect pass through to Abdullah who was bundled off the ball. The referee ignored appeals for a penalty, allowing Fahad Al-Bishi to seize on the loose ball and send a low, powerful drive into the net past advancing keeper Zhang Huihang.

Mosaibeh and Bishi set up at least five more chances in the remaining period of the game, but they came to nothing. In group A, Qatar scored three second half goals against Japan who ended the tournament without a single goal to their credit.

Adel Khamis opened the scoring in the 58th minute, cashing in on a cross from the left wing by youth international Khalifa Khamis, and got the second in the 82nd minute after a mix-up in the Japanese penalty area.

Mansour Muftah added the third in the dying seconds of the game, meeting a curling cross from Khalid Salman with a superb flying header.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## A HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q J 8 7  
♥ 8 6  
♦ 2  
♣ K 10 5 3

**EAST**  
♠ A 5 2  
♥ Q 5 4 2  
♦ K 10 7 3  
♣ J 10 7 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ 6 3  
♥ A J 9  
♦ K Q 8 5 4  
♣ A Q 6

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

The semifinal of the Spingold Team Championship, played last month in Salt Lake City, saw one of the most remarkable comebacks in bridge history. Trailing by 65 International Match Points with only 15 boards to play, a team led by Jim Mahaffey of Florida outscored a team of East Coast internationalists 90-0 to win easily.

This hand helped the East Coast squad build their early lead. At one table, they played a comfortable four-spade contract and made an overtrick when the defenders did not find a heart lead. At the other,

the Mahaffey squad reached three no trump on an auction similar to the one above. North's two hearts was a transfer to spades, and three clubs showed a distributional game-going hand with interest in slam. South had the wrong hand and signed off in three no trump.

West led his fourth-best diamond and East, Richard Pavlicek of Ft. Lauderdale, won the ace. Since he and his partner were making normal leads, East knew that declarer had started with five diamonds. Obviously, therefore, the only hope for the defenders lay in the heart suit, and a shift to that suit was urgent.

Most players would lead a low heart, and the contract would be secure. Declarer would insert the nine. West would win the queen and the ace of spades would be the only other trick for the defenders. Pavlicek shifted to the king of hearts!

Not surprisingly, declarer thought East was leading from a king-queen combination, so he ducked. He tried the heart jack on the continuation, but West won and forced out the ace. The defenders collected three heart tricks and two aces for down one.

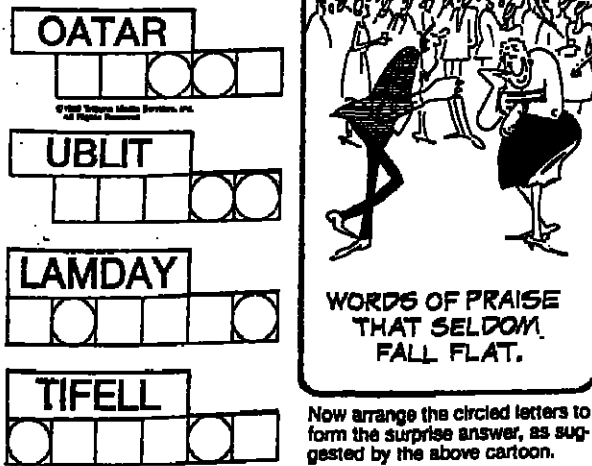
Note that, had declarer won the first heart, he would have been faced with the same guess when East, in with the ace of spades, led another heart. We think he would have gone wrong!

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



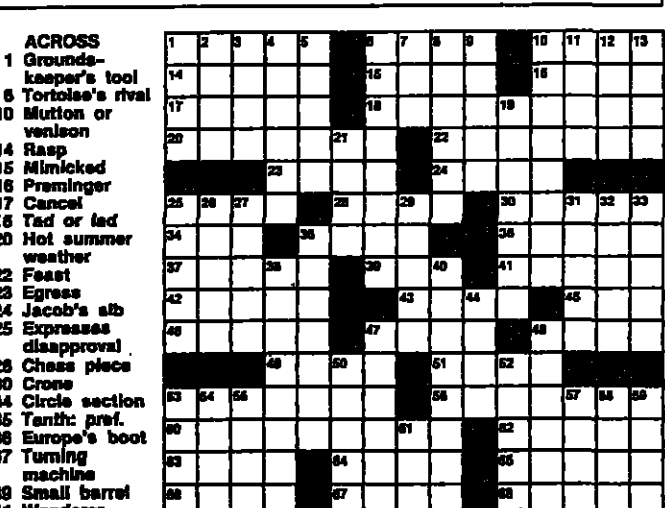
Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUEST PLUSH SURELY IRONIC

Answer: What a crooked politician with a "knotty" problem might try to do—PULL STRINGS

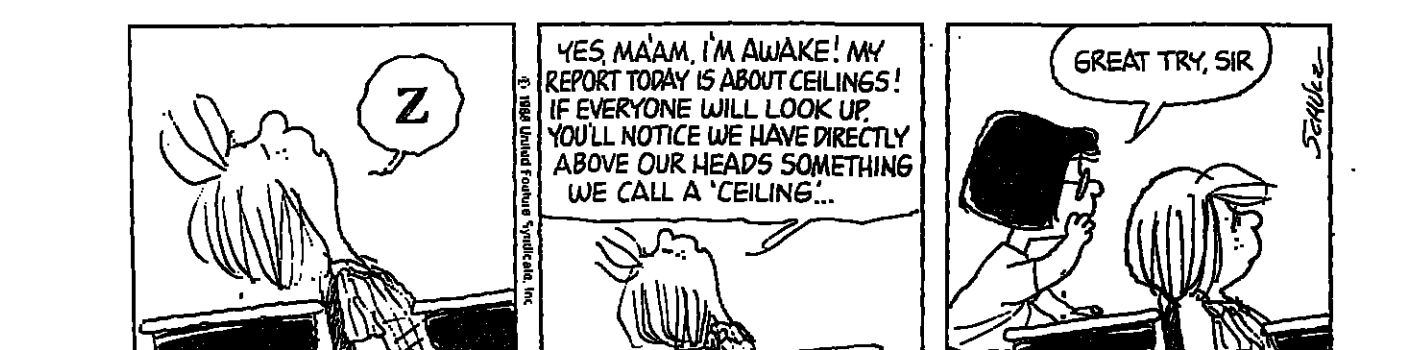
## THE Daily Crossword by J. Miller



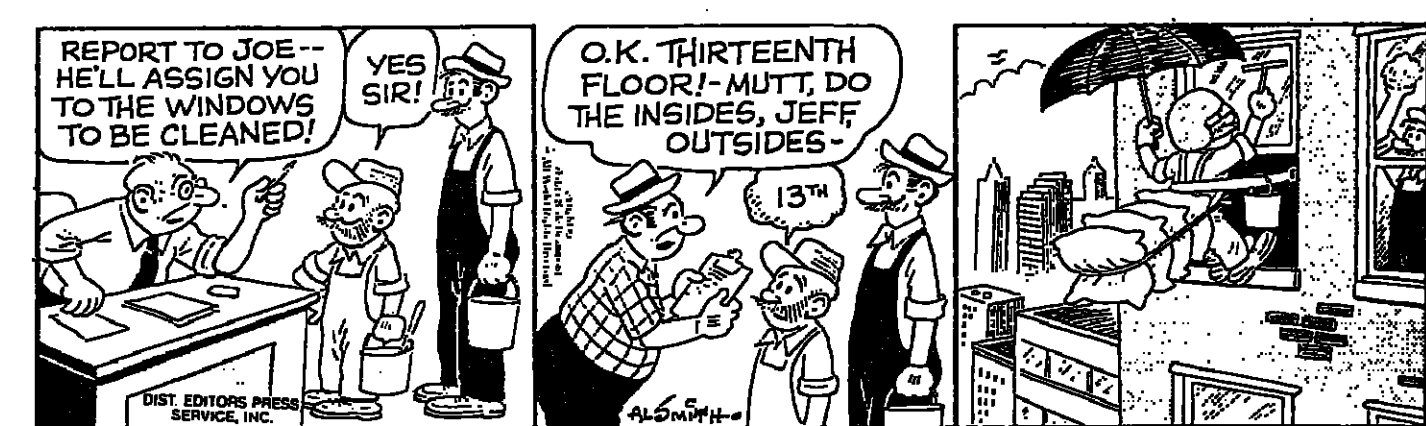
**ACROSS**  
1 Ground-keeper's tool  
8 Tortoise's rival  
10 Mutton or venison  
14 Rasp  
15 Mimicked  
16 Preempting  
17 Cancel  
18 Tad or led  
20 Hot summer weather  
22 Feast  
23 Egress  
24 Jacob's sib  
25 Expressive disapproval  
26 Chess piece  
30 Crane  
34 Circle section  
35 Tenth: prof.  
36 Europe's boat  
37 Turning machine  
38 Small barrel  
41 Wanderer  
42 Catch forty  
43 Yearn  
44 Flub  
45 "— is Born"  
47 Leaf  
48 Extant  
49 Gulf kin  
51 Young deer  
53 Without memory  
58 Fleasure  
60 Mushroom  
62 Chopped up  
63 Drudge  
64 Flightless bird: var.  
65 Eat, kite  
66 Paris airport  
67 Slav  
68 Ruhr valley city

**DOWN**  
1 Expletive  
2 Bond novels  
3 Crew  
4 Musical  
5 Take it easy  
6 Safe place for a needle?  
7 Ol' address  
8 Doll sandwich  
9 Best and  
10 Insect  
11 Two words from Caesar  
12 To — (precisely)  
13 Wrongful act  
14 Chewing  
15 Exclamation of pain  
16 Light wood  
17 Singing group  
18 Eccles  
19 More social  
20 In: county  
21 Many-headed monster  
22 Sudden  
23 With vehemence  
24 Wood or iron  
25 At hand  
26 Revenue  
27 Smith's blocks  
28 Ceremonies  
29 Ship  
30 Alt: prof.  
31 Secure a ship  
32 Bred  
33 Yield  
34 Delightful  
35 Poetic word

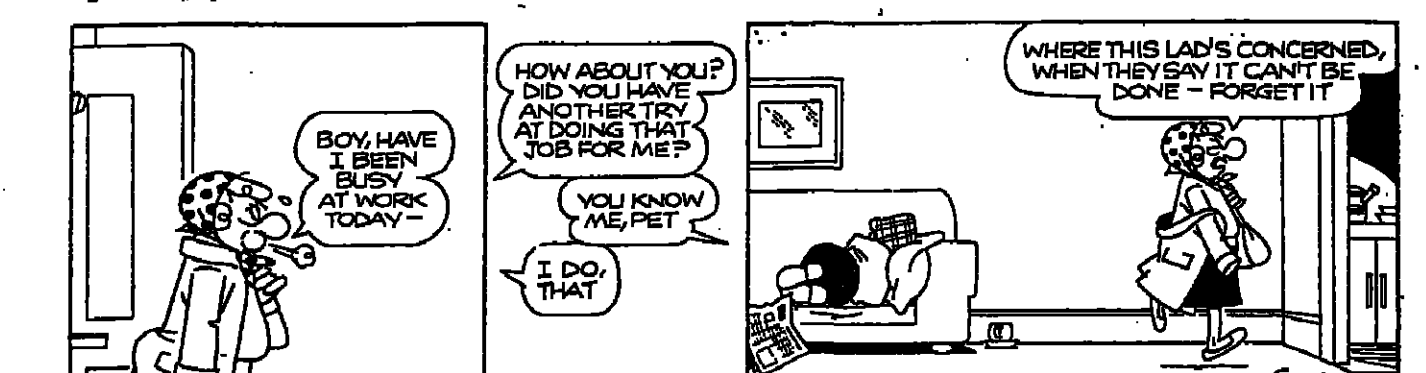
## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp







Relatives grieve as a body is unearthed from under the ruins of buildings devastated by last week's earthquake in Soviet Armenia.

## Flood of quake relief clogs Armenian air, roads

By Carol J. Williams  
The Associated Press

YEREVAN — A worldwide outpouring of aid to Armenian earthquake victims has overwhelmed the mountainous regions hardest hit by the disaster, clogging the Yerevan airport and two crude highways linking the devastated zone with the capital.

Cars, trucks, buses and cranes creep slowly day and night up the narrow, winding roads across the Caucasus range that spans from southern Russia and the small republics between the Caspian and Black seas. The sound of honking horns and grinding engines fills the silence of stricken villages and cities from which thousands have been evacuated.

Foreign aircraft flying in donated blood, medical supplies, food, clothing and rescue equipment wait for hours to have their cargoes unloaded at the airport in Yerevan, Armenia's capital.

Two plane crashes have claimed a total of 85 lives among the rescuers, and minor collisions have been reported among the throng of aircraft that stacked up over the weekend.

"It's been unavoidably chaotic, with so many aircraft arriving at once," said Colin Wheeler, an engineer with Air Europe, which flew 20 tons of medical equipment and food into Yerevan Monday. He said another of the airline's Boeing 707s was clipped by a taxiing Aeroflot jet Sunday, but was not seriously damaged.

Ground crews — nearly all touched by the disaster that has killed as many as 60,000 — scurry among the mass of parked aircraft with the few rolling stairways available. French and German search dog squads that arrived Saturday had to wait an hour to get off their planes, and four to five hours for their donated cargo to be unloaded, the dog handlers said.

Crates of supplies flown in by more than 40 foreign aircraft were stacked around the perimeter of the airport tarmac waiting for trucks, buses and helicopters to take them to victims in the north-central regions struck by the quake.

"Our nation is so undeveloped we can't even receive help properly," an exhausted dispatcher said. She said she had been work-

ing for three days, spelled for only a few hours by others equally fatigued.

Refugees from the earthquake area cluster 10 deep around the Aeroflot information desk and line up for buses in lines of several hundred. The entire city transport system has been commandeered to convey supplies to the north, and private car owners in the capital have been patrolling the streets before curfew, offering rides to the homeless packs seeking refuge with distant relatives.

By night, dozens of Soviet army tanks and armoured personnel carriers patrol areas in Yerevan that have been the scene of ethnic protests for the past nine months.

The earthquake has demanded the attention of most authorities, but Armenians campaigning for control of the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region in neighbouring Azerbaijan have continued to demonstrate. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov confirmed at a Moscow news conference Monday that activists had been arrested in Yerevan a day earlier.

## Van Gogh theft stumps police

THE HAGUE (R) — Police said Tuesday they still had no clue about the theft of three Vincent van Gogh paintings worth tens of millions of dollars from a Dutch museum Monday night.

"We have found nothing yet," a spokesman said.

Police sealed off the wooded National Park in central Netherlands where the Kroller-Mueller Museum is located and searched the area with helicopters.

The thieves, who broke into the museum through a window, made off with one of van Gogh's best known works, "The Potato Eaters," and two other paintings — "Withering Sunflowers" and "Weaver's Interior."

Police were alerted by an automatic alarm system at the museum, which houses the

world's second largest collection of paintings by the Dutch post-impressionist artist. But they arrived at the secluded site only after the thieves had fled.

Police inspector Karl van Seventer told reporters a team of 30 police officers and art specialists has been set up to search for the thieves.

An expert at Christie's auction house said the paintings were worth tens of millions of dollars each. But he added that as stolen works they had virtually no market value because they were too well known to be sold.

Museum officials were unavailable for comment.

Paintings by van Gogh have sold for record prices in recent years. In November 1987, his "Irises" fetched \$53.9 million,

eight months after "Sunflowers," was sold for \$40 million.

"The Potato Eaters," a sombre work of peasants eating potatoes around a dining table, was painted in 1885 in several versions.

It is viewed as a seminal work in developing van Gogh's style. The painter wrote to his brother just weeks before committing suicide in 1890 that he believed the versions of "The Potato Eaters" were probably his best works.

Earlier this year, a painting by van Gogh was stolen along with works by other artists from Amsterdam's municipal Stedelijk Museum but the paintings were recovered within weeks by undercover agents acting as art buyers.

## Namibia could be independent by November 1989 Angola accord signed

BRAZZAVILLE (Agencies) — South Africa undertook Tuesday to end more than a century of white rule in Namibia in return for the withdrawal of about 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola.

Namibia, administered by Pretoria through 40 years of international condemnation, could become independent as early as November next year.

Dozens of diplomats and politicians looked on in Brazzaville's glittering Palace of the People as South African, Cuban and Angolan representatives signed an accord that will put Namibia on the road to U.N.-supervised independence.

South Africa will implement a seven- to 12-month U.N. plan for Namibian independence from April 1 next year.

The so-called Brazzaville Protocol, worked out in eight months of U.S.-mediated talks on three continents, obliges Cuba to withdraw its troops from Angola in prescribed stages up to the end of 1991.

"This will pave the way to a new era of peace in southwestern Africa," said Angolan chief negotiator General Antonio dos Santos Franca, who is known as "Ndalu."

Describing the accord as a

triumph for negotiation over war, South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said: "We want to be accepted by our African brothers. We need each other."

Leonard Nangolo lipumba, envoy of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) liberation group, and the U.N. special representative for Namibia, Martti Ahtisaari, were among the guests in the marble-floored palace near the swirling Congo River that separates Congo and Zaïre.

"Faced with a stark choice of peace or war, (they) chose to work for peace," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker, who mediated the accord.

Paying tribute to Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin for supporting the peace process, Crocker said: "This event signifies the end of a sad chapter in Africa's long history."

The agreement will be reaffirmed at a formal treaty-signing in New York Thursday next week.

In addition to the terms and timing of Namibia's independence and the Cuban withdrawal, the accord provides for a joint Cuban, Angolan and South African commission to deal with disputes.

An unspecified prisoner exchange will take place on Dec. 22, when the formal treaty is signed in New York.

Botha said he expected to travel to New York himself for the ceremony.

Botha said earlier 3,000 Cuban soldiers will leave Angola before April 1 and the entire Cuban force will withdraw within 27 months after that date.

Botha made details of the agreements public during a flight to Brazzaville to sign the accord.

The accord is the first in 40 years of international efforts to prise the uranium- and diamond-rich desert territory of Namibia, which is also known as South West Africa, from South African control.

Namibia, with a largely black population of about 1.2 million people, has been ruled by whites since 1884 and by South Africa since World War I.

Botha said the agreement would oblige Pretoria to begin implementing a 10-year-old Un-

## COLUMN

### Flying boy talked down

NEWARK (AP) — A 17-year-old boy who police say had been drinking because of family problems took a small plane on a three-hour flight through some of the nation's busiest airspace before another pilot talked him down. Air traffic controllers and some commercial flights were on alert Saturday night as the boy, who had a few hours of flying instruction, zigged and zagged across major air corridors serving Newark international, Kennedy international and Laguardia airports. The boy, whose name was withheld because of his age, allegedly broke into a trailer at Old Bridge airport in Middlesex county and took keys to a single-engine Cessna 172, police said. The stolen plane went unnoticed until the boy began radioing a "Mayday" distress signal. The signal was heard all along the mid-Atlantic region's air traffic facilities. Raymond Malachuk, a corporate charter plane pilot, heard the boy's call for help.

### Adoring women depress Iglesias

LONDON (AP) — Spanish pop singer Julio Iglesias says he suffers from depression caused by hordes of adoring women. There are times when he just cannot take any more, said the singer who has dated beautiful women like Ursula Andress, Priscilla Presley and Diana Ross. "Sometimes I just go to my room alone when I've had enough of all the fans," he said in an interview with the monthly Woman's Journal. "It's then that I have one of my low periods when it's easy to feel I have nothing," the singer said. Iglesias 44, does not regard himself as good looking.

### Six gangsters get more jail

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Six mafia gangsters were sentenced to further jail terms from 21 to 25 years Monday for knifing to death a fellow inmate in the chaotic aftermath of an earthquake that struck the Naples area in 1980. Michele Casillo was one of three prisoners killed in Naples prison when rival clans of the Camorra, or Naples version of the mafia, took advantage of the confusion to settle old scores.

### Sellecks buy new homes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Tom Selleck and his wife, dancer Jillie Mack, have purchased two homes for a total of more than \$7.5 million and plan to split their time between the properties. They paid just over \$5 million for a Spanish colonial-style ranch house once owned by entertainer Dean Martin. The house is in hidden valley, a ranch community in northwest Los Angeles. The other house, which cost \$2.5 million, is in Mandeville canyon in the Santa Monica mountains west of the city. Both homes have corals. The star of television's old "Magnum, P.I." and his wife are expecting their first child in February.

### Sun to pay Elton \$1.8m

LONDON (AP) — The Sun newspaper said Monday it was paying pop star Elton John a record £1-million (\$1.84 million) libel settlement. "Sorry Elton," said the headline over a front-page story in the Sun's late edition announcing the out-of-court settlement, and the paper quoted John as saying: "This is the best Christmas present I could wish for... and I don't bear the Sun any malice." He said he had been "living under a cloud" since the Sun published its allegations. "It was embarrassing and depressing. I just want to get on with my life, now that I've been vindicated. All this has made me a stronger person." The Sun said it apologized for the allegations it published in February 1987 that quoted a young man's account of John's private life, and acknowledged that they were false.

### Americans to spend at least \$200 each for Christmas

NEW YORK (AP) — Most Americans intend to spend at least \$200 on Christmas gifts this season, and one in four will spend at least \$500, a Media General Associated Press poll shows. Given those expenses, it's not surprising that a vast majority of Americans — 85 per cent — say they believe Christmas is too commercialised. Still, a plurality celebrate the holiday as a religious, not just a social, occasion.

## Wrong signals faulted for London smash

LONDON (R) — Investigations into Britain's worst rail disaster in two decades centred Tuesday on signals that might have failed at a critical moment, sending three trains into a high-speed smash that killed at least 36.

Police said the number of confirmed dead might rise. Some victims were dismembered and mangled beyond recognition by the impact of Monday's crash, making a precise toll difficult.

Transport Minister Paul Channon defended state-owned British Rail's safety record in spite of its acknowledgement that a signal fault might have caused the disaster outside Clapham Junction in south London.

Days before, technicians were working on a modernisation of the 50-year-old signal network at Britain's busiest rail intersection.

"That may well be the cause... I think that's one of the

major questions for the inquiry to get into," Channon said in a radio interview.

An inquiry announced by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher within hours of the crash would also investigate why the trains had no radios to pass on warnings, Channon added.

The three-train pile-up, involving about 1,000 people, occurred at the peak of morning rush hour. About 150 were injured, some of whom were in critical condition.

A long-distance train crashed into the back of a stationary commuter train packed with passengers. The impact forced carriages into the path of a third train coming from London.

An official of the train drivers' union ASLEF said he had spoken to Alex McClymont, the driver of the commuter train, whose testimony is likely to play an important role in the inquiry.

"What we have been told is that the driver was getting green lights all the way. Then, suddenly, for no reason, it switched to red and that is why he braked the train," he told reporters.

"We don't know what the lights behind were doing because the only person who knows is dead," he said.

The driver of the second train was killed instantly when his engine and the front carriages were crushed by the impact.

McClymont told reporters he had left his train to talk to signallers on the trackside telephone.

"Suddenly I heard a train approaching in the distance and then, a split second later, there was a hell of a bang and everything shot forward," he said.

The signals network controlling the stretch of line where the crash occurred is more than 50 years old. All signals were fit-

ted with "failsafe" devices that turn lights to red if there is a malfunction.

Railway and union officials speculated that the backup, which should have stopped the long-distance train short of disaster, might have failed.

Some newspapers said Tuesday the disaster might have been made worse by overcrowded trains. Consumer pressure groups complain that carriages are often packed at peak hours with hundreds standing.

As the crash occurred, railway union members were demonstrating at central London's Euston station dressed as sardines in a pre-planned protest against overcrowding.

"The unions have never claimed that overcrowding causes crashes, but they do contend that congested trains can result in more deaths when accidents happen," the Guardian newspaper said.

## Pretoria hits U.S. envoy's remarks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa criticised U.S. Ambassador Edward Perkins Tuesday, accusing him of being unfair about its judicial system.

Perkins, the first black U.S. ambassador here, provoked official South African displeasure by accusing Pretoria last Saturday of using the courts for political ends.

He referred to the sentencing last week of 11 anti-apartheid activists at the end of the so-called Delmas treason trial which aroused international interest.

State-run South African radio, in a daily commentary which voices government policy, took Perkins to task for suggesting that treason convictions against non-violent community leaders could not command respect.

"Leaving aside the propriety of



Edward Perkins

this remark in respect of the ambassador's diplomatic function, the comment is both unfair and unjustified," the radio commentary said.

"The South African legal definition of treason was comparable to laws in other Western countries designed to secure the safety of the state."

The independence of the South African judiciary had been proven many times, the commentary added.

## Court rebuffs North push for top-secret documents

WASHINGTON (AP) — The judge in the Iran-contra case Monday sharply limited the classified documents Oliver L. North can use for his defence, rebuking the former White House aide for threatening disclosures simply to "frustrate the prosecution."

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell invalidated a 500-page list of secret documents North had proposed as defence exhibits. He said the former national security council aide "seeks disclosure of masses of classified material which under no conceivable version of a defence could have any utility whatsoever."

Gesell gave North's lawyers until Jan. 3 to select 300 classified documents, roughly the same number prosecutors want to use as trial exhibits.

North's lawyers will be given a chance at another closed hearing to outline the "relevancy and materiality of each item and generalities will not be accepted," the judge said.

The judge refused to grant independent counsel Lawrence

E. Walsh's request to totally bar North from revealing any secrets to defend charges he conspired to illegally divert U.S.-Iran arms-sale proceeds to the contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Such a blanket prohibition "would be improper because it would too severely restrict the defence," Gesell said.

North had sought to disclose 30,000 documents, many of which contained highly sensitive references to U.S. intelligence operations and efforts to free American hostages in the Middle East.

No date has been set for North's trial, but last month Gesell indicated it could begin as early as late January. Three co-defendants each are to be tried separately.

President Ronald Reagan has said he will not allow disclosure of any of the secrets North wants to use to defend himself. White House refusal to release documents relevant to the case could settle North's prosecution on the central conspiracy charge and a related charge.

## Crash-plague grounds allies' training flights

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The air forces of West Germany, the United States, Britain and Canada have suspended fighter aircraft training in West Germany until Jan. 2, the Pentagon announced Monday.

The agreement followed a series of military crashes in West Germany, including an accident last Thursday when a U.S. warplane crashed into a row of houses during a training mission, killing six people.

In Bonn, West German Defence Ministry spokesman Werner Widder said the suspension was in memory of the victims of last Thursday's fiery crash of a U.S. A-10 Thunderbolt II jet into a residential neighbourhood in Remscheid. The accident killed six people, including the pilot.

The ARD television network said West Germany was holding discussions with other NATO countries about suspending their military training flights under 3,300 metres until Jan. 2.

The Remscheid accident renewed a public outcry against military flights over residential areas and triggered allegations by some West German officials that U.S. authorities mishandled the rescue efforts and delayed releasing information.

A statement issued by the U.S. air force's European headquarters in Ramstein denied a newspaper report that U.S. soldiers sent to the area used force.

Late Monday, the U.S. embassy in Bonn also issued a statement denying that U.S. military authorities had been slow to inform West German officials of the type of ammunition carried by the plane.

Such West German press reports "have contributed to the negative and inaccurate impressions" about the way U.S. authorities handled the accident aftermath, the embassy statement said.

Clear information on the type of munitions carried by the plane was conveyed by U.S. officials to the West German

Defence Ministry within one hour of the crash, the statement said.

Monday's announcement followed a meeting at the Pentagon between visiting West German Defence Minister Rupert Scholz and U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci at which the problem of low-level flights was discussed.

"They talked about that problem and a wide range of other NATO and bilateral issues. But the low-level training flights was one of the key topics," Navy Commander Mel Sundin, a Defence Department spokesman, told Reuters.

The mass-circulation newspaper Bild newspaper reported Saturday that witnesses had seen U.S. soldiers with drawn night sticks push away residents and "even hit them on arms and hands."

Bild's Sunday edition, Bild am Sonntag, said one U.S. soldier pointed a rifle at the chest of one of its reporters as he tried to approach the crash site.

"Two recent articles in the German newspaper Bild stated that Americans took these harsh measures while securing the area" where the plane crashed, the U.S. embassy statement issued in Bonn said.

It said that U.S. soldiers were not securing the area. "German police and German army are responsible for guarding the entry control points at the site," the statement said.

Another air force statement also said that Remscheid city officials and U.S. military authorities have agreed that rescue cooperation between U.S. and West German officials went smoothly.

Some West German officials said U.S. military authorities delayed information about the ill-fated plane's ammunition load and other details.

The officials also said the alleged delay in passing on information hindered rescue efforts.

### Argentina hikes army pay

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — The armed forces will receive pay raises of 20 per cent in December plus a bonus of 1,500 australs (about \$100), the government news agency Telam reported Monday. A pay raise was one of the demands of about 500 soldiers who staged a four-day uprising earlier this month.

### Manila acquits former colonel

MANILA (AP) — A court martial acquitted the former Manila security chief Tuesday of charges that he plotted a 1987 coup attempt against President Corason Aquino. Supporters of former Colonel Rolando Abadilla cheered as the chairman of the six-member court, Buenaventura Tabo, read the verdict, ending a trial that began in September.